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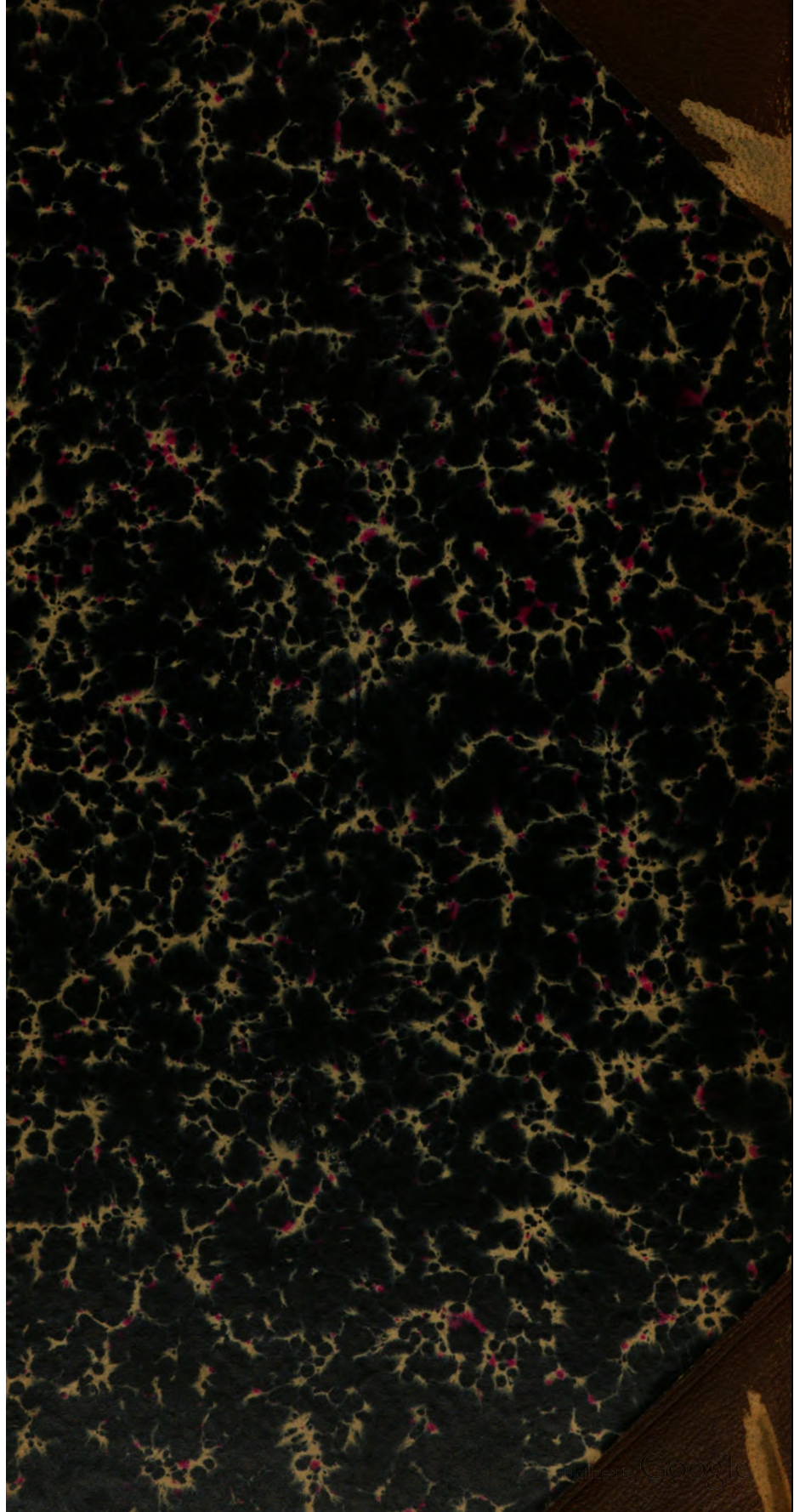
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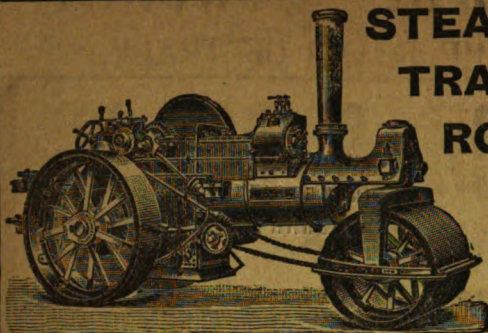
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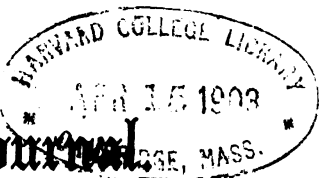
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THE
Board of Trade Journal.



Vol. XLI.]

April 2, 1903.

[No. 331.]

In a notice on p. 48 will be found a revised statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade having regard to the recent transfer to the Board of Trade of the Imperial Institute. The main office of the Branch is at present at No. 50, Parliament Street, S.W., with a temporary enquiry office at 49, Eastcheap, E.C., the City Branch of the Imperial Institute.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. iv. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office, on pp. 46-7.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on pp. 44-5.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

The Board of Trade have been notified by the East Indian Railway Company that the Company is prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of:—
Tenders for Paper, Stationery, &c. Paper, stationery, &c.,
as per specification to be seen at the Company's offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

▲

Openings for British Trade.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary to the Company, marked "Tender for Paper, &c.," not later than 1 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the 8th day of April.

The Company reserves to itself the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For each specification a fee of 1*l.* 1*s.* is charged, which cannot under any circumstances be returned.

CANADA.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade. Offices, Victoria Street, S.W., where further information may be obtained:—

A Huddersfield firm ask for names of Canadian exporters of weaving, spinning and twisting bobbins.

A London firm of export and import commission merchants, having an agent in the Dominion calling on wholesale houses, are prepared to execute indents for Canadian firms, charging a small fixed commission for the service.

Enquiry is made for the names of firms at Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, St. John and Hamilton willing to take up the agency for bottled ale and stout.

A West of England firm ask to be placed in communication with importers of Labrador pickled salmon in either London, Liverpool, Bristol or elsewhere.

Enquiry is made by a firm of furniture makers and upholsterers for the names of persons able to supply dimension timber.

A Canadian firm ask for names of porcelain makers able to supply small jars suitable for packing preserves for retail purposes.

A firm at Vancouver, British Columbia, desire to hear from British and European agents who will be prepared to buy green or dried salt fish, such as cod, halibut, salmon, herring, &c.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the Canadian Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade. Section of the Imperial Institute, from the Curator of which Section further particulars may be obtained:—

A London house ask to be placed in communication with reliable Canadian butter packers who are prepared to ship supplies direct to South Africa.

A firm of timber merchants desire the addresses of Canadian manufacturers of chair materials.

Openings for British Trade.

A company manufacturing engineers' tools and machinery wish to form a connection with a few Canadian importers.

The manufacturers of leather belting seek the services of a Canadian resident agent who possesses an influential connection.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

MAURITIUS.

A communication has been received at the Board of Trade from the Collector of Customs at Port Louis, Mauritius, in which it is stated that there are openings for sugar and aloe fibre machinery, say for that which, as a rule, is accompanied by its own power producer, but there are now and again enquiries for engines of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 horse-power for driving pumps, fibre scrapers, dynamos, tea machinery, &c.

Beam and horizontal engines are most commonly used in Mauritius, and self-contained plants of engines and boiler are often wanted for sundry purposes.

The Collector of Customs further states that there is an opening now, and one that will continue to exist, for light railway material for tracks of 60, 75 and 80 centimetre gauge, for cane carrying. There will be an opening also for reliable and not too costly motor carriages with two and four seats, steam driven, and fired by ordinary lamp petroleum preferred. Traction engines are likewise in great request.

**Machinery,
Engines, Fibre
Scrapers and
Dynos.**

**Railway and
Tramway Plant
and Machinery.**

**Motor Carriages
and Traction
Engines.**

BRITISH HONDURAS.

According to a communication received at the Board of Trade from the Colonial Secretary of British Honduras, plans for the construction of light railways or tramways from the coast to some of the best Crown Lands in the Colony are now under consideration, and it is hoped that some of them may be carried into effect at no distant date.

**Light Railway
or Tramway
Construction.**

Openings for British Trade.

EGYPT.

According to the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of the 18th March, the Egyptian Government is prepared to authorise the laying of conduits and the placing of electric commutators on the roads and public squares of Ghiza and Ghezira for distributing electric energy to the Government and to private individuals in accordance with the conditions of contract and within the limits laid down therein.

The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works will receive offers up to the 12th May, 1903, which should contain a detailed description of the installations proposed, especially with regard to the current, tension (primary and secondary), variation of tension, system of the machinery, apparatus, &c.

The proposed charges for the electrical energy must also be indicated.

The plan and conditions of contract may be obtained on payment of 20 Turkish piastres (3s. 7d.) from the Minister of Public Works, Cairo.

NORWAY.

A despatch has been received at the Board of Trade, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, reporting that, under reservation of necessary approval, tenders in sealed envelopes marked "Vandrør og irregulære Støbninger" will be received at the office of the Branch Engineer ("Afdelingsingeniørens Kontor") of the Arendal-Aamli Railway, at Arendal, not later than 2 p.m. on 22nd April, for the supply of water pipes and irregular castings as follows:—

84 9 in. English pipes, of which 60 turned and bored.

10 9 in. English bends.

1 branch box ("Forgreningskasse").

8 junction sockets ("Skjødmmuffer") all dipped in Smith's solution.

300 kilogs. lead in blocks.

50 kilogs. oakum.

For further conditions application should be made to "Arendal-Aamli banens Kontor, Arendal."

Delivery is to be c.i.f., and duty free at Arendal two months from acceptance of tender.

Right is reserved to accept all tenders in whole or in part, or to reject all tenders.

Openings for British Trade.

NORWAY—continued.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, a despatch stating that tenders are invited for 35,000 tons of "New Pelton," "Old Pelton," "Pelaw Main," "Londonderry," "Benwell," "Holmside," or similar gas-coal for Christiania gas works, to be delivered free on board including export duty and town dues at Tyne dock or other English port where regular weekly steamer connection can safely be depended on. Conditions of delivery can be inspected at the gas works office where sealed tenders marked "Anbud paa Kul" will be received not later than 12 o'clock noon on Monday the 20th April.

Tenders are to be binding at least three days or 72 hours after expiration of limit of time for tendering. Tenders received after that time, or reductions received after the expiration of limit of time for tendering will be disregarded.

The Consul-General adds that the coal in question being for the Christiania gas works, the preference accorded to Norwegian over foreign tenderers in the case of Government contracts, will not apply in the present instance.

NETHERLANDS.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a despatch from H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, reporting that on Wednesday, 22nd April next, at 12 midday, the Netherlands Minister of Colonies at the Hague, will receive tenders for the supply of the following material:—

Contract No. 333.—Superstructure and appurtenances for 32 railway bridges.

Contract No. 334.—Ironwork, &c., for a covered station at Padalarang.

Contract No. Z^a.—120 waggons (in tiers) for carriage of salt briquettes.

Contract No. A^a.—Metalwork for the pier at Makassar.

Contract No. B^a.—Soft steel.

Particulars may be obtained from Mart. Nyhoff, 18 Nobelstraat, The Hague, on payment of:—

Fl. 6 (10s.) for each of Contracts Nos. 333 and A^a.

Fl. 3 (5s.) for Contract No. 334.

Fl. 1.50 (2s. 6d.) for Contract No. Z^a.

Fl. 0.50 (10d.) for Contract B^a.

Openings for British Trade.

DENMARK.

The "Berlingske Tidende" of 25th March contains a notice inviting tenders for the supply to the Locomotive Department of the Danish State Railways of:—

Iron.

45,550 kilogs. of bar iron.

1,600 „ „ angle iron.

3,200 „ „ shaped iron.

607 iron plates.

350 iron covering-plates ("Beklædningsplader").

1,100 plates for smoke consumers ("Røgbrænderplader").

Tenders must be sent in on specified forms before 1 p.m. on 11th April to the Office of the Department. 6, Colbjørnsensgade, Copenhagen, where forms and conditions of tender may be obtained.

FRANCE—SENEGAL.

From particulars furnished by the Chamber of Commerce at St. Louis (Senegal) and published in the "Bulletin Commercial" of the 21st March, it appears that all long-cloth used at St. Louis and in the Senegal must be in pieces of 15 metres in length. No variation is permissible because pieces of this length are adopted as currency by the natives.

Consumers divide it, according to their requirements, in two parts of 7·50 metres or in three parts of 5 metres. Any other division would be absolutely useless. European or Indian long-cloths consigned to the Senegal are forwarded, usually from Bordeaux, in bales of 100 pieces of 15 metres.

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 27th March contains a Royal Order authorising the granting of a concession to Don Juan Isla Domenech, for the construction and working for 99 years, without any State subvention, of a narrow-gauge railway from León to Mattallana.

Materials for railways are admitted into Spain under special rates of import duty, as stated on pp. 434-5. of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 22nd February, 1900.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—*continued.*

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 28th March contains a Royal Order authorising, without the formalities of calling **Light Apparatus** for tenders, the acquisition and setting up of **for Light-house.** the apparatus for the light on Cape Revurdiño, of the port of Muros, province of Coruña, at a cost of 20,039 pesetas or about 592l.

The "Gacetas" containing the above notices may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

TURKEY IN ASIA.

The following memorandum by Lieut.-Col. P. H. Massy, the British Vice-Consul at Adana, suggesting openings for British trade in Central Asia Minor, has recently been received at the Board of Trade through the Foreign Office:—

"During a recent journey of some 1,500 miles in Central Asia Minor I was able to collect the following notes on commercial opening, in those parts visited, which I hope may prove of interest to our manufacturers and merchants.

"The chief districts visited were those of Marash Behseneh, Adiaman, on the south of the Taurus mountains, and Malatia, Albistan, Azizieh, and Hadjin on the north of that range.

"British commercial travellers never visit those parts which are somewhat remote and difficult of access. Yet a considerable trade could be done, I feel sure, were we to employ local agents to sell our wares, in combination with a central agent near the coast at an important town like Adana or Aleppo.

"Even now a considerable trade is done in the places I mention in Manchester cotton goods, and this might be doubled if some system of agency were to be adopted and if patterns were sent to the remoter districts.

"If such agencies could be established, a good trade might be done in the following articles, which appear to be in general demand, but which must be of a cheap and strong kind:—

"Manchester cotton goods, harness and saddlery, light carts, stoves, lamps, enamelled ware, cheap cutlery and looking-glasses, fezzes, warm cloths for winter wear, waterproofs, strong boots, cigarette papers, toys, stationery, cheap jewellery and watches, goloshes, gloves, warm overcoats, umbrellas, tea, carpenters' tools and sewing-machines.

"The sale of sewing-machines alone would be a lucrative trade.

"Insurance of property is gradually developing and some French companies are doing a good business. Why should not

Openings for British Trade.

our companies get a share of the large profits to be made in this line? I met at Malatia the agent of an American Insurance Company who was doing excellent business there. . . Agents must travel and break down ignorant prejudice. A few payments are the best advertisement. After a recent fire in Mersina there was a general increase in insurance work. Catalogues and circulars should be distributed in Turkish and Armenian.

"A certain French tonic wine is now securing a great sale because of the circular referring to its qualities being printed in five different languages current here in the East. Our catalogues in English and our weights and measures are quite useless. Foreigners consequently get all the trade.

"To compete successfully with other countries our merchants should send smart agents round occasionally to show patterns, to give prices, to distribute catalogues in local languages (French, Greek and Turkish on the coast, Turkish and Armenian in the interior of the country), and to personally study the markets, and to establish local agents of good reputation. We should not lose sight of the fact that the trade of Asia Minor is one worth fostering in view of the probable increase as the projected railways develop the country."

PERU.

On pp. 18-19 will be found a report on the trade of Iquitos in 1902, in which the Acting British Consul at that port calls attention to the following articles of United States manufacture which are imported there in considerable quantities, and with which British manufacturers could probably compete:—

**Fancy Shirtings
and Cotton Drills;
Axes and Machet
Knives.**

Special kinds of fancy shirtings and cotton drills, and especially in the following implements—axes and machet knives, which are entirely imported from the United States. These should be well finished and made of good material.

Referring to the notice published on p. 104 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 15th January last, respecting a concession applied for from the Peruvian Government for establishing and working a service of electric tramways to connect Lima with the watering-places of Miraflores, Barranco, and Chorillos, it may be noted that according to a report by the Belgian Legation at Lima, the Peruvian Minister of Public Works has issued a decree authorising the construction of these lines.

**Electric
Tramway
Material.**

Openings for British Trade.

CHILE.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, an extract from a recent despatch from H.M. **Railway Construction.** Minister at Santiago, stating that the Chilean Government were able to obtain the passage of the Bill for a transandine railway *via* Vspallata. Another Bill projecting a railway over the Andes by the Antuco Pass was likewise accepted by Congress, as also was a Bill for the prolongation of a line running from Concepcion to Penco.

EXHIBITIONS.

GERMANY.

In a memorandum on the Motor-car Exhibition, which was opened at Berlin on the 8th March, the Commercial **Motor-Car Exhibition at Berlin.** Attaché to H.M. Embassy at Berlin says that at the opening ceremony Dr. Lewald, German Commissioner to the St. Louis Exhibition, begged all motor-car manufacturers to send motor vehicles of all kinds to it, as they were in great request in the United States.

At the exhibition there were 105 manufacturers exhibiting belonging to Berlin, Aix-la-Chapelle, Frankfort, Mannheim, Stuttgart, Nuremburg, Cologne, Hamburg, Hanover, Leipzig, &c.; and every kind of motor vehicle was shown, including vans and omnibuses, bicycles, &c., and their appurtenances. A feature of the exhibition consisted in a few exhibits of the Prussian War Office with various kinds of motors for military purposes. A complete goods train for roads was shown with a motor waggon of 40 horse-power (the motor being obtained from spirit, but petroleum will be used in German South-Western Africa where it is to be used) able to haul 20 tons. There were two large waggons with open frame-work, to attach; the whole only cost 1,400*l*. A few motors for boats were also shown.

A catalogue of the exhibits may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Openings for British Trade.

FRANCE.

With reference to the notice published on p. 572 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 19th March, the Board of Trade have now received copies of the programme (in English) of the Industrial Exhibition to be held at Rheims from May to September this year. The programme contains the general regulations, the classification of the various groups of exhibits, together with the form to be filled in by intending exhibitors, and other particulars concerning the exhibition.

Copies of the programme may be obtained on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

RUSSIA—POLAND.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Warsaw, forwarding copies of plan and circulars relative to a Sports Exhibition, which is to be held at Warsaw in May next.

The exhibition will embrace all branches of sport:—automobilism, cycling, aeronautics, rowing, swimming, skating, exhibits connected with hunting, riding and driving, fishing, foot racing, fencing, gymnastics, athletics of all kinds, amateur photography, as well as sporting amusements, such as archery, football, lawn tennis, golf, hockey, &c., garden and drawing-room games.

Not only finished articles, but all kinds of utensils and materials having connection with any of the above-mentioned branches of sport may be exhibited.

The circular states that the continual increase of the home production of cycles, owing to the great development of cycling, as well as to the new establishment in the Kingdom of Poland of automobile factories, affords a splendid chance for introducing to the local market articles necessary in this industry.

Copies of the plan and circulars may be obtained on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Adana.—H.M. Vice-Consul at Adana writes under date

Consular Reports: 3rd March:—

Utility to " Could it be suggested to our merchants in
Commercial " any way how beneficial it might be to their
Travellers. " interests were they to place the reports on
" trade with those places about to be visited in
" the hands of their commercial travelling agents. This may
" appear to be superfluous, yet not one gentleman visiting this
" Vice-Consulate as far as I can remember knew anything about
" the local trade reports."

Southern Nigeria.—A report on Southern Nigeria recently issued by the Colonial Office states that trade prospects in that colony should prove to be more than ordinarily bright, in view of the fact that the operations begun in 1902 in the Aro country—a large portion of the territories—are expected to have a very beneficial effect on trade. This will not, in all probability, immediately appear, but the gradual and successful pacification of a large oil-producing area, hitherto given up principally to "JuJu" fetish, is bound to be followed by the throwing open of markets hitherto closed to Europeans except through middlemen. A tract of country emancipated for the first time from all kind of native oppression will naturally require time to develop.

It is added that the natives possess the trading instinct, and once their every-day life admits of attention to the advantages of trading, their energies, hitherto expended in other ways, will be diverted in the right direction, and increased trade should result.

Pensacola.—In a report recently received at the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 2,942), the British Vice-Consul at Pensacola says that British tradesmen continue to send out voluminous catalogues and price lists, which are of no use for the following reason:—American business men will not trouble to wade through a British price list and order from it, owing to the labour it would entail in correspondence, currency, and duty questions, &c., as all this is avoided by the daily call of commercial travellers of all nationalities, except British, who are in possession of samples, quote prices, discount, and other facilities for obtaining the goods, with the result that in a few minutes business is transacted. If it happens that the local merchant requires a particular British article, the American, French, or German traveller will go out of his way to obtain it for him.

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA IN 1902.

The Board of Trade have received, through the High Commissioner for Canada, a preliminary summary of the mineral production of Canada last year, from which the following particulars have been taken. For purposes of comparison the corresponding figures for the year 1901 have been added:—

Product.	1901.		1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Metallic—		Dols.		Dols.
Copper Lbs.	40,951,196	6,600,104	39,168,202	4,553,695
Gold, Yukon	—	18,000,000	—	14,500,000
" all other	—	6,462,222	—	6,241,245
Iron ore (exports)... .. Tonst	306,199	763,284	423,901	1,065,019
* Pig-iron from Canadian ore	83,100	1,212,113	71,665	1,043,011
Lead Lbs.	50,756,440	2,199,784	23,000,000	985,870
Nickel	9,189,047	4,594,523	10,693,410	5,025,908
Silver Oz.	5,078,318	2,993,668	4,373,000	2,280,957
Zinc... .. Lbs.	—	—	166,700	8,068
Total	—	42,824,698	—	35,653,768
Non-Metallic—				
Actinolite Tonst	531	3,126	550	4,400
Arsenic	695	41,676	800	48,000
Asbestos	38,079	1,186,434	81,779	1,191,338
Asbestic			8,662	12,114
Chromite	1,759	25,444	900	12,400
Coal... ..	6,186,286	14,671,122	7,639,255	15,538,611
Coke	373,625	1,264,360	506,466	1,538,990
Corundum	435	53,115	768	84,468
Felspar	5,226	4,710	7,576	11,375
Fireclay	3,979	5,920	2,741	4,283
Graphite	1,440	28,880	1,095	28,300
Grindstones	5,701	55,690	6,159	48,400
Gypsum	293,799	340,148	332,045	356,317
Limestone for flux	169,399	183,162	293,108	218,809
Manganese ore	440	4,820	84	2,774
Mica	—	160,000	—	400,000
Mineral pigments—				
Baryta	653	3,842	1,096	8,957
Ochres	2,233	16,735	4,955	30,495
Mineral water	—	100,000	—	100,000
Moulding sand Tonst	14,620	29,240	13,352	27,651
Natural gas	—	312,359	—	195,992
Peat Tonst	220	660	475	1,663
Petroleum Brls.	588,528	953,415	521,485	934,740
Phosphate Tonst	—	—	856	4,953
Pyrites	28,261	113,044	35,616	138,939
Salt	59,428	262,328	63,056	288,581
Talc	259	842	689	1,804
Tripolite	—	—	900	15,800

* The total production of pig-iron in Canada, in 1902, from Canadian and foreign ores amounted to 357,903 tons, valued at 4,243,545 dols., of which it is estimated 71,665 tons, valued at 1,043,011 dols., should be attributed to Canadian ore and 286,238 tons, valued at 3,200,534 dols., to the ore imported.

† The ton used is that of 2,000 lbs.

Mineral Production of Canada in 1902.

Product.	1901.		1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Structural Materials and Clay Products—		Dols.		Dols.
Cement, natural rock ... Brls.	133,328	94,415	124,400	91,870
" Portland "	297,066	535,615	594,594	1,028,618
Granite	—	155,000	—	170,000
Pottery	—	200,000	—	200,000
Sands and gravels (exports) Tonst	197,302	117,465	159,793	119,120
Sewer pipe	—	250,115	—	294,465
Slate	—	9,980	—	19,200
Terra-cotta, pressed brick, &c. ...	—	278,671	—	348,597
Building material, including bricks, building stone, lime, tiles, &c.	—	4,820,000	—	5,500,000
Total structural materials and clay products...	—	6,461,261	—	7,771,870
Total all other non-metallic...	—	19,821,072	—	21,245,094
Total non-metallic	—	26,282,333	—	29,016,964
" metallic	—	42,824,698	—	35,653,768
Estimated value of mineral products not returned	—	300,000	—	300,000
Total, 1902	—	69,407,031	—	64,970,782

† The ton used is that of 2,000 lbs.

Notwithstanding the gratifying increase in the total value of the production of non-metallic minerals, the grand total of the value of the production of all the mineral industries of Canada shows a falling-off of 2.61 per cent. This is due not merely to the decrease in the Yukon output of gold of 3,500,000 dols., but also to the very considerable falling-off in values of all the remaining metallic minerals other than nickel. But for the large growth of the coal and coke industry, helped by increases in many of the other non-metallic products, the decrease in the grand total, on account of the metallic class, would have amounted to nearly 10 per cent. The total of the production of the metallic products shows a falling-off of over 15 per cent. as compared with the equivalent figures for 1901, whilst the non-metallic class shows an increase of over 20 per cent. in a similar comparison.

It will be noticed that although the output of pig-iron from Canadian ore has fallen off, the whole iron smelting industry shows, notwithstanding, marked growth. Taking the values of the coal and coke produced during 1902, together with those in the allied iron smelting industry, an increase of nearly 4,500,000 dols. is exhibited, showing a growth in these, the most commercially important industries of the country, more than offsetting the falling-off of the 3,500,000 dols. in the necessarily fluctuating product of the placer gold washings of the Yukon Territory.

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF GERMANY IN 1902.

According to an advance statement of the Imperial Statistical Bureau showing the mineral and metallurgical production of the German Empire for the year 1902, published in the "Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger" of the 24th March, the output of coal in that year was as follows, the corresponding figures for 1901 being added for purposes of comparison :—

	1901.		1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Metric tons.	Thousand Marks.	Metric tons.	Thousand Marks.
Coal... ..	108,539,444	1,015,254	107,436,334	951,012
Lignite	44,479,970	110,280	43,000,476	102,378
Total	153,019,410	1,125,534	150,436,810	1,053,390

These figures show that in 1902 there was a decrease of 1·6 per cent. in the output of coal, and of 3·3 per cent. in that of lignite.

The following table shows the quantity and value of other minerals and salts produced in the years 1901 and 1902 :—

	1901.		1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Metric tons.	Thousand Marks.	Metric tons.	Thousand Marks.
Iron ore	16,570,182	71,999	17,963,595	65,736
Zinc ore	647,496	21,502	702,504	29,811
Lead ore	153,341	14,141	167,855	13,436
Copper ore	777,339	24,299	761,921	20,431
Silver and gold ore	11,577	1,551	11,624	1,384
Cobalt, nickel and bismuth ores	10,479	742	12,435	752
Manganese ore	56,691	703	49,812	579
Pyrites	157,433	1,142	165,235	1,285
Asphalt	90,193	675	88,374	604
Petroleum	44,095	2,950	49,725	3,351
Rock-salt	985,060	4,529	1,010,412	4,684
Kainit	1,498,569	21,666	1,322,633	19,210
Other potash salts ...	2,036,325	21,763	1,962,384	20,796

The chief feature noticeable from the above figures is the increase of 8·4 per cent. in the production of iron ore.

Mineral Production of Germany in 1902.

The products of reduction works are stated to be as follows:—

	1901.		1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Metric tons.	Thousand Marks.	Metric tons.	Thousand Marks.
Copper ingots	31,317	46,309	30,591	34,164
Zinc... ..	166,283	54,787	174,927	61,804
Lead, pigs, bars, &c. ...	123,098	32,233	140,331	31,349
Litharge	4,101	1,128	4,187	1,033
Pig-iron	7,880,087	491,774	8,529,900	455,699

The production of refined salts, and of various salts, in refined or commercial form, is shown in the following table:—

	1901.		1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Metric tons.	Thousand Marks.	Metric tons.	Thousand Marks.
Salt	578,751	15,730	572,846	15,611
Potassium chloride	294,666	35,129	267,512	31,545
Magnesium chloride	21,018	334	19,658	310
Glauber salts	76,065	1,968	83,973	2,174
Potassium sulphate	37,394	5,840	28,279	4,534
Potassium magnesium sulphate	15,612	1,146	18,147	1,405
Magnesium sulphate	46,714	687	39,262	541

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWNS OF HARBIN AND DALNY.

Economic Changes in the Far East.

The following particulars, relating to the development of the towns of Harbin and Dalny and the economic changes in the Far East, caused by the construction of the Siberian and Chinese Eastern Railways, are extracted from the report of M. Witte, the Russian Minister of Finance, on his recent visit to the Far East, translations from which have appeared in recent issues of the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg":—

Harbin.—The town of Harbin, which almost from the commencement of the construction of the Manchurian Railways has been the principal administrative railway centre, is situated on the right bank of the River Sungari, at a point where the main line of the Chinese Eastern Railway divides into two parts, one going to Dalny and the other to Port Arthur. The situation of this town

Development of the Towns of Harbin and Dalny.

is a particularly favourable one, standing as it does in the centre of Manchuria, with the railways which traverse the country radiating from it, and on a navigable river which waters nearly the whole of Manchuria.

Anticipating that the town would become a commercial and industrial centre of great importance, the railway administration took steps from the very beginning to obtain the greatest possible extent of land, and at the present time, the area covered by Harbin and its future suburbs is 3,500 dessiatines (9,450 acres, or about $14\frac{1}{2}$ square miles). Barely five years ago the site on which the town stands was a desert spot. At the present time the three parts into which the town is divided contain 20,000 inhabitants.

M. Witte goes on to enumerate the steps taken to encourage the development of Russian industrial establishments at Harbin, and concludes by expressing his conviction that the town would, owing to its exceptionally favourable position, shortly become a great commercial and industrial centre.

Dalny.—Dalny is the terminus of the southern branch of the Chinese Eastern Railway. This town is destined, says M. Witte, to become the most important commercial port for the Far East. The idea of establishing an important trading centre at this place—i.e., at the terminus of the Chinese Eastern Railway, and on the shore of the Yellow Sea, which is free from ice—dates from 1898. The port, which is admirably situated on the Gulf of Talienwan, and adequately sheltered from the winds and from severe storms, will, when various improvements are completed, form a part of Victoria Bay, surrounded with an artificial barrage (moles and breakwaters), having an area of 430,000 square sagènes (square sagène = 5.44 square ft.), about the same size as the port of Odessa. The basin will be deepened in its widest part to 28 ft., which will suffice for the largest steamships, and the rest of the basin will have a depth of 18 ft. to accommodate coasting vessels. There is reason to believe that these works will be finished in about a year. The future of Dalny as a commercial port depends to a great extent on the quantity of merchandise brought there by the Chinese Eastern Railway. The existence of a coal dépôt at a seaport is very necessary for the development of steam navigation. It is therefore very important to facilitate the importation of coal into Dalny from Southern Manchuria. M. Witte considers that the practicability of this project depends entirely on the quality and richness of the Manchurian coal mines. The working of the Yangtai collieries has been undertaken by the Chinese Eastern Railway for supplying its own needs. The coal extracted from Yangtai and from the North Dalny mine, situated near the Transbaikal frontier being sufficient for these requirements, it is hoped that the product of the coal mines situated near the Southern Manchuria Railway will be sent direct to Dalny.

Development of the Towns of Harbin and Dalny.

Further on in his report, M. Witte urges that, whilst Russian traders should be attracted to Dalny, the establishment of commercial relations with other countries should also be encouraged in every possible way.

Dalny versus Vladivostock.—In considering the relative positions of Dalny and Vladivostock, M. Witte remarks that the latter as well as the former is a terminal point of the Siberian Railway and consequently it is eager to attract, like Dalny, not only the transit of goods by this line, but also the exchange of Manchurian produce with foreign countries. The foundation of Dalny, he says, has greatly affected the trade of Vladivostock, and the merchants of the latter town are loud in their complaints, as they consider that Dalny will kill the trade of Vladivostock, and that recourse will have to be made to tariff and other measures in order to assist Vladivostock to retain its importance in this region.

This idea, adds M. Witte, is based on a misunderstanding. Since Kwantung was occupied and the railway connecting the Yellow Sea with the Russian railway system constructed, it would have been entirely contrary to Russia's most essential interests to fail to create a commercial port at the extremity of this line on the shore of a sea free from ice. Vladivostock could not have any advantage over Dalny, which is open to navigation all the year, and which is in close proximity to the commercial centres of China.

Changes in Economic Conditions.—In conclusion, M. Witte refers to the changes which are already becoming very apparent in economic conditions in the Far East through the construction of the Siberian Railway and of its latest link, the Chinese Eastern Railway. Prior to this, the Transbaikal as well as the Province of the Amour, had a commercial and industrial existence of its own, quite foreign to the commercial and industrial interests of Russia.

The smallness of its population and the absence of any industries rendered absolutely unproductive and useless from a fiscal and economic point of view the maintenance of a Customs protection of so extended a frontier. The only possible trade route was by way of Lake Baikal.

Up to the time of the construction of the Siberian railway the commercial situation was as follows:—The ports of the Russian littoral on the Pacific Ocean and the most important amongst them, Vladivostock and Nicolaevsk, enjoyed the advantages of free ports. By their agency, the Russian colonies established for the most part on the maritime littoral, on the banks of the Amur and its affluents, were provided with foreign goods, and importations by the land frontier, on the Chinese side, consisted of Chinese products exclusively, such as tea and silk, &c.

TRADE OF IQUITOS IN 1902.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a report by the Acting British Consul at Iquitos on the trade of that port in 1902, which states that in spite of the increased difficulties presented to traders last year by the new Administration of Customs, which insists upon formalities hitherto unknown, higher valuation of goods than should justly belong to them, and impositions of heavy fines on Consular invoices, the trade of Iquitos has been well maintained.

Rubber, almost the only article of export from the department of Loreto, showed an increase of 40 tons, as compared with 1901. Owing to the lower value of this produce in Europe and America, the total value is slightly less than that of 1901. Caballo Cocha and the Peruvian side of the Javary are both included in these figures, and both these ports have shown a considerable decrease in exports.

The total exports of rubber of all kinds in 1901, from the department of Loreto, amounted to 1,738,676 kilogs., valued at 412,000*l*. The total export for 1902 was 1,778,086 kilogs., valued at 387,000*l*. Shipment of 60 per cent. of the totals was made to Liverpool, the remainder to Havre.

The imports, according to Custom-house valuation, show an increase of over 100,000*l*. more than in 1901. This, however, says the Consul, cannot be taken at such a high figure, as goods have been valued at much higher prices than hitherto, the duties in consequence having been considerably augmented. It is not possible to obtain exact proportion of English goods imported, but it can be taken for granted that imports of English goods have been received in larger volume than those of other countries.

The value of the total imports into Iquitos in 1902 amounted to 250,928*l*., as compared with 145,500*l*. in 1901.

The quantity of the total imports amounted to 11,369 tons, as compared with 9,506 tons.

All imports and exports from and to Europe and the United States were made by British steamers, the only exception being the German s.s. "Ithaka" of the Hamburg-American Line, which brought 154 tons of cargo and was cleared homewards with 48 tons 10 cwt. of rubber. There are no alterations in the condition of trade to report.

During the latter part of 1902 great interest was shown in the "Upper Ucayali" and its affluents communicating with the Purus and Madre de Dios. Up to the present no increase from these sources has been shown, but it is expected that big quantities of rubber will come down from these rivers during this year.

With proper attention to the requirements of the market, British manufacturers could probably compete with the United States in the following goods, which are imported in considerable quantities:—

Trade of Iquitos in 1902.

Special kinds of fancy shirtings and cotton drills, and especially in the following implements—axes and machet knives, which are entirely imported from the United States. These should be well-finished and made of good material.

Taking a general view of the trade of the department of Loreto, there is, says the Acting-Consul, every probability of a better demand for all manufactured goods. Exports will also be increased, not only in rubber, but in a variety of articles such as gum capivi, ivory, nuts, vanilla, cocoa, sarsaparilla and piassaba, which are all common to that region.

RATES OF IMPORT DUTY LEVIABLE ON MOTOR
VEHICLES IN CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES
AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

The following statement shows the rates of import duty leviable on motor vehicles in the undermentioned foreign countries and British Possessions, so far as particulars are contained in the official editions of the Tariffs of such countries and Possessions, or in other sources of information in the possession of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade:—

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Russia.—Motor vehicles pay duty as carriages according to kind, the motor being dutiable separately at the rate of 2 roubles 10 copecks per pound (13s. 9d. per cwt.). In the case of automobiles with undetachable motors, if it is impossible to ascertain from invoices or other documents what is the actual weight of the motor, such weight will be taken as equivalent to 30 per cent. of the weight of the car with the motor attached. The rates of import duty on carriages of various kinds are:—

Large, such as coaches, landaus, diligences and omnibuses, each 237 roubles, 60 copecks (25l. 1s. 7d.).

Small, such as caleches to seat two persons, dogcarts, &c., each 162 roubles (17l. 2s.).

Vans and hand carts, each 72 roubles (7l. 12s.).

In the case of carriages completely upholstered an additional 20 per cent. is levied.

Norway.—Motor cars and carriages pay duty at the rate of 15 öre per kilog. (8s. 6d. per cwt.).

Germany.—Motor cars pay an import duty of 8 marks per 100 kilos. (4s. 1d. per cwt.).

Belgium.—Automobiles, motor cars, &c., pay 12 per cent. *ad valorem*; motor cars used by travellers visiting Belgium are exempt from duty.

Rates of Import Duty Leviable on Motor Vehicles in certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

France.—Automobiles with detachable motors pay the rates of duty on carts or carriages, according to their nature, the motors being dutiable separately. Automobile carts, waggon, &c., for trade, with undetachable motors, are dutiable as motors on their whole weight, whilst automobile cars and carriages with undetachable motors pay on their whole weight at the rate of duty fixed for carriages.

The rates of duty on motors are:—

Gas, petroleum, hot-air and compressed-air engines—

Weighing 250 kilos. and above, 12 frs. per 100 kilos. (4s. 10½d. per cwt.).

" less than 250 kilos., 20 " " " (8s. 2d. per cwt.).

Dynamo-electric machines—

Weighing from 10 to 50 kilos., 80 frs. per 100 kilos. (32s. 6d. per cwt.).

" " 50 " 1,000 " 30 " " " (12s. 2d. ").

" " 1,000 " 2,000 " 20 " " " (8s. 2d. ").

" " 2,000 " 5,000 kilos. :—

Containing at least 50 per cent. of cast-iron, 18 frs. per 100 kilos. (7s. 4d. per cwt.).

Containing less than 50 per cent. of cast-iron, 20 frs. per 100 kilos. (8s. 2d. per cwt.).

Weighing 5,000 kilos. or more—

Containing at least 50 per cent. of cast-iron, 12 frs. per 100 kilos. (4s. 10½d. per cwt.).

Containing less than 50 per cent. of cast-iron, 20 frs. per 100 kilos. (8s. 2d. per cwt.).

Dynamo-electric machines weighing less than 10 kilos. are treated as scientific instruments and are exempt from duty.

On carriages and carts the rates of import duty are:—

Carriages (other than railway or tramway carriages)—

Weighing 125 kilos. or more each ... 50 frs. per 100 kilos. (20s. 4d. per cwt.).

" less than 125 kilos. each...120 " " " (48s. 9d. ").

Carts and waggon for the purposes of agriculture, trade, &c.—

Hung on springs ... 12 frs. per 100 kilos. (4s. 10½d. per cwt.).

Not hung on springs ... 6 " " (2s. 5d. ").

Portugal.—The rates of duty on automobiles are:—

Complete ... 120 milreis each (27l. each at par exchange).

Incomplete ... 70 " (15l. 15s. " " ").

Spain.—Automobiles are dutiable as the carriages they resemble without any addition of duty for the motor.

The rates of duty on carriages are:—

Coaches and berlins of four seats and light carriages with two "tableros" and boxes, with or without hoods, 1,000 pesetas (at par exchange, 40l.) each.

Berlins of two seats, with or without folding seats ("bigotera") and omnibuses with more than 15 seats, and diligences, 750 pesetas (at par exchange 30l.) each.

Four or two-wheeled carriages, without "tableros," with or without hoods, and without regard to number of seats, omnibuses with not more than 15 seats, and carriages not specified above, 312 pesetas (at par exchange 12l. 10s.) each.

Italy.—Automobile road carriages pay the following rates of duty:—

Rates of Import Duty Leviable on Motor Vehicles in certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

With not more than 2 wheels ... 42 lire (at par exchange 3*s.* 7*d.*) each.
 With more than 2 wheels, and not more than 5 springs, 110 lire (at par exchange 4*l.* 8*s.*) each.
 With more than 2 wheels, and more than 5 springs, 330 lire (at par exchange 13*l.* 4*s.*) each.

In assessing duty on automobiles the motor is considered an integral part of the vehicle unless it can be separated. If the motor is separable, it pays duty separately. In the case of automobiles with electric motors, accumulators which are separable from the vehicle pay duty separately, even though the motor is not separable from the vehicle. The rates of duty on motors and accumulators are:—

Accumulators, 8 lire per 100 kilos. (3*s.* 3*d.* per cwt. at par exchange).

Dynamo-electric machines—

Weighing up to 1,000 kilos., 25 lire per 100 kilos. (10*s.* 2*d.* per cwt. at par exchange).

Weighing more than 1,000 kilos., 16 lire per 100 kilos. (6*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. at par exchange).

Gas, petroleum, rotary motors, &c., 12 lire per 100 kilos. (4*s.* 10½*d.* per cwt. at par exchange).

Austria-Hungary.—Automobiles pay the rates of duty leviable on carriages, viz.:—

If without leather and not upholstered ... 59·52 kronen (2*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*) each.

If with leather work or upholstered ... 178·57 „ (7*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*) „

and, in addition, the following rates of duty in respect of the motor:—

If containing more than 50 per cent. of non-precious metals, 28·57 kronen per 100 kilos. (12*s.* 1*d.* per cwt.).

If not containing more than 50 per cent. of non-precious metals—

Electric motors ... 11·90 kronen per 100 kilos. (5*s.* 0½*d.* per cwt.).

Other kinds ... 17·86 „ „ (7*s.* 6½*d.* „).

Switzerland.—Automobiles for the conveyance of passengers pay a duty of 20 frs. per 100 kilos. (8*s.* 2*d.* per cwt.), whilst automobiles for the conveyance of goods pay 6 frs. per 100 kilos. (2*s.* 5*d.* per cwt.).

Turkey.—The general rate of duty charged on all goods imported into Turkey (with a few exceptions, *e.g.*, precious metals), is 8 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Bulgaria.—No special duty being fixed for automobiles in the Bulgarian Conventional Tariffs, they would be covered by the general rate of 14 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Egypt.—Automobiles pay import duty at the general rate of 8 per cent. *ad valorem*; certain other dues of small amount are also payable, bringing the rate up to 8½ per cent. *ad valorem*.

China.—Automobiles not being specifically mentioned in the Chinese Tariff would pay duty at the rate of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Philippines.—Automobiles pay import duty at the rate of 60 dols. (12*l.* 10*s.*) each.

Rates of Import Duty Leviable on Motor Vehicles in certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

India.—Automobiles are not separately mentioned in the Tariff of India, but carriages and carts of all kinds (other than railway carriages), and generally, articles not specified in the Tariff pay 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Straits Settlements.—All goods (with the exception of spirits, &c.) are free of duty.

Ceylon.—Automobiles, not being specifically named in the Ceylon Tariff, would be liable to duty at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem*.

Mauritius.—Automobiles for agricultural purposes are duty free up to 30th June, 1903; other automobiles pay duty at the rate of 10·4 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Seychelles.—Motor cars are not mentioned in the Seychelles Tariff as being subject to any special duty, nor do they appear on the free list. They would consequently pay 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Hong-Kong.—Automobiles are free of import duty.

British New Guinea.—Automobiles not being specially named in the Tariff would pay 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Australian Commonwealth.—Motor vehicles pay 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

New Zealand.—Motor cars pay 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Fiji.—Motor cars, whether classed with "carts and carriages" or with "articles not specified or not included in the free list," would pay import duty at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem*.

Falkland Islands.—In the absence of any special rate of duty motor cars would be free.

South African Customs Union (Cape Colony, Natal, O.R.C.)—Automobiles would apparently be liable to duty at the rate of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* "as all wheeled vehicles (not otherwise enumerated) intended for the conveyance of persons or goods."

Transvaal.—As no special duty is fixed for automobiles in the Transvaal Tariff, the rate payable would be $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem*. In addition, transit duty at the rate of 3 per cent. is payable in the South Africa Customs Union and Portuguese East Africa (Delagoa Bay) on automobiles imported *en route* to the Transvaal.

Lagos.—In the absence of any special duty, automobiles pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Sierra Leone.—As automobiles do not appear in the list of articles subject to special rates of duty or in the list of exemptions, the general rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* would be applicable.

Rates of Import Duty Leviable on Motor Vehicles in certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

Gambia.—Automobiles are not specifically named in the Tariff, and would consequently pay duty at the rate of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Canada.—Automobiles are not specifically named in the Canadian Tariff, but it appears from a report of the United States Consul in Victoria, British Columbia, that the Canadian Customs authorities treat them as "machines," not separately enumerated, and the rate of duty accordingly is 16½ per cent. *ad valorem*, if imported from the United Kingdom and accompanied by a certificate proving them to be of British manufacture.

Bermuda.—Automobiles, not being specially named in the Tariff or in the free list, would pay 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

British Honduras.—So far as not comprised under the heading of "carts for agricultural purposes; trucks for use in mahogany works; carts for use in logwood works; railway and tramway plants;" all of which are exempt from duty, automobiles would pay at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Bahamas.—Automobiles would apparently be dutiable at the rate of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, not being separately enumerated in the Tariff. Railway and tramway rolling stock is duty free.

Jamaica.—Automobiles are not specifically named in the Tariff, and would therefore pay 16½ per cent. *ad valorem*. Railway rolling stock is duty free.

Barbados.—Automobiles would apparently pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, not being specifically mentioned.

Trinidad.—Railway and tramway vehicles are free of duty; automobiles for road use would pay 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

British Guiana.—Motor cars, not seating more than four each, pay an import duty of 80 dols; for each seat above, an additional 20 dols. is levied. A surtax of 5 per cent. on the amount of duty payable is also levied.

In Gibraltar and Malta no duty is levied on automobiles.

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

BRITISH INDIA.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of a Bill (Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903) introduced with the object of providing for the levy of a Customs duty on Indian tea exported from British India in order to create a fund to be expended by a specially constituted committee for the promotion of the interests of the tea industry in India.

**Proposed
Export Duty
on Tea.**

By section 3 of the Bill it is provided that "on and from the 1st April, 1903, a Customs duty shall be levied and collected on all tea produced in India and exported from any Customs port to any port beyond the limits of British India or to Aden at the rate of one-quarter of a pie ($\frac{1}{8}$ d.) per pound, or at such lower rate as the Governor-General in Council may, on the recommendation of the Tea Cess Committee, prescribe by notification in the Gazette of India."

At the close of each month, or as soon thereafter as may be convenient, the Collector of Customs shall pay the proceeds of the tea cess, after deducting the expenses of collection (if any), to the Tea Cess Committee.

This Committee is, in the first instance, to consist of 20 members, who shall be appointed by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the following bodies and authorities:—

(a) *Three* on the recommendation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; and *one* on the recommendation of the Madras Chamber of Commerce.

(b) *Seven* on the recommendation of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta; and

(c) *Nine* on the recommendation of such respective bodies or authorities interested in the production of tea in India and established in British India, as the Governor-General in Council may appoint in this behalf:

Provided that if, within the period prescribed by rules made under this Act, any of the said bodies or authorities fails to make any recommendation, or to make the full number of recommendations which it is entitled to make, the Governor-General in Council may appoint the required number of members of the Committee of his own motion without such recommendation.

The proceeds and any other moneys received by the Committee are to be applied by the Committee towards meeting the cost of such measures as the Committee may consider it advisable to take for promoting the sale and increasing the consumption in India and elsewhere of teas produced in India.

The Tea Cess Committee shall keep accounts which shall be examined and audited annually by auditors appointed by the Governor-General in Council, and they may disallow any item which has been expended otherwise than as directed under this Act.

Proposed Tariff Changes.

The cess is to remain in force until the 31st March, 1908, provided that the Governor-General in Council may, on the recommendation of the Tea Cess Committee, declare, by notification in the "Gazette of India," that it shall continue in force for any further period specified in such notification.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

TRANSVAAL.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the Transvaal Customs Duty (Sugar) Suspension Ordinance, 1903 (No. 8 of 1903), which received the assent of the Governor on the 25th February last.

Power to suspend or reduce the duty on British South African Sugar. The present Ordinance gives powers to the Lieutenant-Governor to suspend, or reduce, the duty on sugar, the produce of British South Africa, imported into the Transvaal, up to and including the 31st August, 1903, or such later date as may be notified by Proclamation.

Any such suspension or reduction will only be granted on production by the importer of such sugar of any evidence required by the Director of Customs with regard to the origin of the sugar, and shall be subject to any regulations made by the Director of Customs governing the importation of such sugar.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 13th February last, containing Decisions, in accordance with Section 139 of the Customs Act of 1901, under which the duties to be levied on the undermentioned articles imported into the Commonwealth are laid down as follows :—

Angelica—

As peel preserved (not in liquid)... 3d. per lb.

Morphia and acetate of morphia—

As opium ... 30s. per lb.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of an Order (No. 707) of the Committee of Trade and Customs, dated 9th February last, giving decisions in relation to the Customs Duties Acts affecting the undermentioned articles imported into New Zealand :—

**Customs
Decisions.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Articles, and how classed.	Rate of Duty.
Machine, coal tipping, if imported for or by a coal-mining company—	
As machinery for mining purposes	Free.
Rubber floorcloth, corrugated—	
As floorcloth	20 % <i>ad val.</i>
Screens, driven by steam or other mechanical power, if imported for or by a coal-mining company for grading coal—	
As machinery for mining purposes	Free.
Sheep-drencher, Elliott's patent automatic—	
As agricultural implements	Free.
Velvets, Genoa, when not containing the larger proportion of silk—	
As textile piece-goods not otherwise enumerated	20 % <i>ad val.</i>
Zinc tubing for making pendulums for turret clocks—	
As articles and materials suited only for, and to be used solely in the fabrication of goods in the Colony	Free.
[The sample submitted was about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, and the diameter was $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.]	

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Board of Trade have received from the Governor of Newfoundland a notice to the effect that questions having arisen as to the duty leviable on certain "articles of hardware" imported into the Colony, it has been decided upon the recommendation of the Treasury Board, and under the authority of Section 6 of the Customs Act, 1898, that a duty of 25 per cent. *ad valorem* will be leviable, from 7th March, 1903, upon splitting, sheath, shoe, butchers', farriers', putty, glaziers' and paint knives.

GAMBIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, a copy of the "Customs (Munitions of War) Ordinance, 1903" (No. 2 of 1903), which received the assent of the Governor of the Colony on the 19th of February last.

The present Ordinance amends the Customs Ordinance of 1882, in so far as it empowers the Governor to prohibit, by Proclamation, the importation or exportation of "munitions of war."

Provision is also made to amend the rules and regulations for any of the following purposes:—

1. Interrogation of masters and officers of vessels or other persons as to contents of packages landed from or shipped on board any vessel.

2. Penalty of perjury for any false statement made in reply to such interrogation.

3. Searching for prohibited goods and seizure thereof.

4. Arrest or detention of persons concerned in their importation or exportation.

5. Prevention of importation or exportation of prohibited goods.

The list of the articles included in term "munitions of war" is

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

given *in extenso* in the Ordinance, a copy of which may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

EGYPT.

With reference to the notice which appeared at pp. 264-5 of the *Valuation Tariff* "Board of Trade Journal" for the 5th February last, the Board of Trade are now in receipt of a copy of the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 14th March, containing the following revised *Valuation Tariff** in use by the Egyptian Customs authorities for the purpose of assessing Customs duties on imported sugars. This revised Tariff, which was to come into operation on the 12th March and will remain in force until the 11th May, 1903, is as follows:—

Kinds of Sugar.	Valuation per 100 kilogs.†
Crystallised or moist, in single or double bags (gross weight)	940
Powdered or centrifugal, in single or double bags (gross weight)	970
Crushed, in single or double bags (gross weight)	1,040
Cubes, in boxes (net weight)	1,120
Loaves, in boxes (net weight)	1,180

* For particulars as to the nature of these Egyptian Valuation Tariffs see "Board of Trade Journal" for the 19th March, pp. 589-90.

† Duty is levied on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent.

‡ 1,000 millièmes = £E 1 = 1*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.*

MOROCCO.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the exportation of Residue of Olives. from all Moorish ports of the residue of olives will be permitted, as an experiment, for three months, commencing from 1st April.

The duty leviable on such exports will be at the rate of one peseta (about 7*d.*) per cwt.

CUBA.

The "Monthly Bulletin of the International Bureau of the American Republics" for February, publishes a statement of the regulations in force in the Island of Cuba with regard to the importation and exportation of merchandise.

The following are the more important provisions of these regulations:—

**Regulations
respecting
Importation and
Exportation of
Merchandise.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

I.—Importation.

All goods not duly entered for payment of duties within ten days after their arrival in port are taken possession of by the Collector of Customs as unclaimed and placed in warehouse, to be disposed of as unclaimed goods.

Entries must set forth the following information:— Name of vessel; class and nationality of vessel; name of captain; port or ports whence cleared; name of consignee; number and paragraph of the manifest; number of packages; class, marks and numbers of the packages; number and letter of the paragraph of the tariff under which each article is dutiable; number, class, quantity, and quality of merchandise in the weights and measures of the tariff; gross and net weight of each article; value of the merchandise in detail; date; and signature of the importer. The entry is to be made in duplicate if the merchandise is declared for consumption, and in triplicate if declared for immediate transportation. Every entry must be accompanied by the bill of lading relating to the merchandise declared, consigned or duly indorsed to the importer, and by the invoice expressing in detail the merchandise declared. All merchandise not duly entered within 90 days after its arrival, and all merchandise on which duties have been paid, if not withdrawn from the custom's warehouses, is deemed abandoned by its owner, and is sold at public auction after five days' public notice, but the time may be extended to six months.

As regards value and weight of goods, if the appraised value of the goods exceeds their declared value, in addition to the regular duties, a charge is made equivalent to 1 per cent. of the total appraised value for each 1 per cent. in which the appraised value exceeds the declared value. If the difference between the two values reaches or exceeds 50 per cent., unless it is evident that the difference is due to a clerical error, the goods are confiscated.

If the declared weight of merchandise is exceeded by the actual weight to the extent of from 1 to 15 per cent. of the total weight of the goods, additional duties may be imposed not to exceed 1 per cent. of the total duties on the merchandise for each 1 per cent. of difference between the declared and actual weights. Such additional duties are not imposed when the Collector is satisfied that the difference occurred in good faith. If the difference exceeds 15 per cent. of the actual weight, additional duties are imposed on the stated basis. If it reaches or exceeds 50 per cent. the goods are confiscated.

II.—Exportation.

In order to ship merchandise for export, application must be made to the Collector for a permit. The application must contain particulars of the name, class, and nationality of vessel, name of captain, destination of the shipment, marks, number of packages, class of goods, quantity in weight or measure, and value of the merchandise.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

The permit having been obtained and delivered to the Customs Inspector, the shipment can be made.

The full text of these regulations may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

COSTA RICA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the import duty on calcium carbide, for use in the generation of acetylene gas, has been reduced to 6 cents per kilog., or, including the Government wharfage tax, about 1*d.* per lb.

CHILE.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a Chilean Decree relative to the assessment for duty of goods subject to different Tariff treatment when imported in a single package. The following are the new regulations embodied in this Decree:—

Assessment of Goods subject to different Tariff treatment imported in a single package.

When goods subject to distinct rules as to weight, valuation, or duty, are imported in one and the same package, they shall be weighed in the condition in which they appear on opening the package ("en las condiciones que se presenten"). To the weight thus ascertained 20 per cent. will be added in respect of goods assessable by gross weight if they have any packing or wrapping, and 30 per cent. will be added when they have no covering or wrapping. In the case of goods assessable by weight inclusive of internal packing 15 per cent. will be added if they arrive without any such packing. Glassware, earthenware, and porcelain are excepted from these regulations: a surcharge of 60 per cent. will be made on these goods.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a despatch from H.M. Legation at Buenos Aires, stating that a Parliamentary Committee is now sitting charged with the task of revising both the import duties and Custom-house valuations of imported goods, and that the various foreign Chambers of Commerce in Buenos Aires have been invited to send in to the Commission any propositions that they may have to make on the subject. It is added that no British Chamber of Commerce exists in Buenos Aires.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

UNITED KINGDOM—GERMANY.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Stettin, reporting that a fortnightly steamship service has been established between Newcastle-on-Tyne and Stettin, by Messrs. Thos. Wilson, Sons and Company, Limited, of Hull.

Definite sailing days from Stettin and Newcastle have not yet been fixed; these will depend on the quantity of cargo available, and whether or not intermediate ports are to be called at.

This line is expected to prove of considerable benefit to shippers and importers in the northern counties and in South Scotland, whose goods have hitherto been shipped at Hull and Leith.

Particulars respecting rates of freight and departures can be obtained in Stettin from Messrs. F. Ivers, and in Newcastle from C. Hassell & Son.

RUSSIA.

In his recent report to the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul-General at Odessa calls attention to the fact that although in 1899 a ten years' extension was given to the favour accorded to Russian steamers, whereby the Government refunds their Suez Canal dues, only about 60 Russian steamers used the canal in 1901.

The lines of steamers communicating with the Far East were as follows:—

Volunteer Fleet. Besides the steamer "Khabarovsk," permanently in the Sea of Okhotsk, the volunteer fleet has 15 steamers. Six of these are fast cruisers, and eight are cargo steamers. They made 24 runs to the Far East in 1901 and carried as passengers:—

	Outward.	Homeward.
	No.	No.
Private persons	483	895
Military (including families)	8,795	17,611
Emigrants	6,574*	...
Convicts and persons accompanying them	1,051	3
Total	16,903	18,509

* It is stated that the emigrant flow from Central Russia to the Far East by Odessa greatly diminished in 1901, partly from disappointing reports sent home, and partly because of the completion of the railway lines.

The volunteer fleet carried outwards 44,557 tons of Government cargo, principally material for the Ussuri Railway and warlike stores, and 23,407 tons private cargo. Homewards, they brought 999 tons of Government cargo and 26,477 tons private cargo. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,943.*)

Shipping and Transport.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

According to a despatch received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Naples, the Imperial German Government's floating dock at Dar-es-Salam, East Africa, is now ready for use. It can admit vessels not exceeding 1,800 tons displacement and the corresponding gross tonnage.

The dimensions of the dock are as follows:—Length on keel blocks, 213 ft.; width of dock at coping, 72 ft. 2 in.; width of entrance, 55 ft. 10 in.; greatest draught at which vessels can be docked, 20 ft.

The dock is built according to the principles of modern dock construction, and is furnished with all modern arrangements. It consists of four sections, which can be unscrewed one by one for cleaning, painting and preserving the bottom.

The dock is lighted by electricity, both inside and outside. Special electric lamps are provided for night work, and four electric drills are provided for working on the outside of the ship's hull.

The dock can take vessels of 300 ft. in length, not only for cleaning and painting, but for repairing hull, machinery and boilers.

The Government workshops will undertake every kind of wood and iron work, cleaning, painting and repairing, engine and boiler work, building boats, lighters, &c., iron and brassfounding materials for repairs, tools, coals, feed-water for boilers, and best fresh water for drinking can be furnished.

CHINA.

The Foreign Office have received copy of a notification of the Chinese Customs authorities, in virtue of which eight additional ports of call on the West River have been opened to steamers plying under the Provisional West River Regulations, for the landing and embarking of passengers only, namely, Do Sing, Luk To, Yuet Sing, Luk Pu, How Lik, Kau Kong, Mah Ning, and Yung Ki.

The text of the notification, which contains the rules and regulations to be observed, may be consulted by those interested, at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

**Additional
Facilities for
Passenger Traffic
on the
West River.**

MINERALS, METALS, AND MACHINERY.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

In the recently issued report on Trinidad and Tobago for the year 1901-2 (Colonial report, No. 382, published by **Mineral Deposits.** Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, E.C.), it is stated that ten licenses were issued to prospectors to search for petroleum and coal in Trinidad. It is now becoming realised that, besides its pitch lake, that island probably possesses large deposits of coal, manjak, and asphaltic oil, and prospectors have recently been actively at work both on crown lands and on private property.

Coal has been found in several parts of the island, in most cases out-cropping at the surface, but it is chiefly
 Coal. lignite of a quality which would be unable to compete with the imported coal. The borings for coal undertaken by the Government have been so far successful as to warrant further trials being made under expert advice.

Petroleum oil has been found in considerable quantities by a Canadian company, who hold an extensive concession in the Ward of Guayaguayare. The
 Oil. company have spent very large sums of money in machinery and boring operations, and it is hoped that the industry will prove a success.

Manjak, in paying quantities, has been discovered on two neighbouring estates in the Naparima district.
 Manjak.

RUSSIA.

According to a report by the French Ambassador at St. Petersburg, published in the "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" of the 19th March, it is proposed to
 Export of Coal form a company for the export of Donetz coal from Donetz. to the Mediterranean, under the following conditions:—The mine owners will float a company with a capital of a million roubles (105,000*l.*), one half of the capital being subscribed by themselves and the other half by the State Bank. The ports of call of the Russian Mercantile Marine in the Mediterranean, Egypt, and especially Italy, will be the fields to be exploited.

The Ambassador considers that the following obstacles will be met with in connection with this enterprise, which may interfere with its success:—Firstly, Russian coal is only medium in quality; it loses much in transport, contains so much sulphur that several industries reject it, and catches fire rather easily in bulk.

Secondly, the markets to be exploited are fairly restricted and it does not appear that Italy in particular is disposed to give up Cardiff coal in place of the Donetz article, even at a lower price.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

Lastly, a return freight for the ships of the company is problematical.

To obviate the difficulties of the inferior quality and friability of Russian coal, the directors of the proposed company intend to manufacture briquettes, and will endeavour to gain assistance to this end by obtaining from the Imperial Government the abolition of the duties on tar, &c.

This enterprise, says the Ambassador, testifies to a laudable desire on the part of the State to encourage with its funds, even at the risk of some sacrifice, the attempt of the Donetz colliery owners. It is also one of the many examples of the depression existing in the mining industry, due to the metallurgical crisis.

ITALY.

A despatch, dated 21st March, has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Palermo, reporting that during the year 1902 57 vessels were employed in the coal trade with the port of Palermo. Of these, 37 were British, nine Norwegian, six German, two each Italian and Greek, and one Danish. The total coal imported during 1902 was 147,630 tons, of which only 300 tons were not British. British bottoms carried 102,885 tons of the whole quantity. Two-thirds of the amount imported was for the Navigazione Generale Italiana, the railways, and the gas company.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

H.M. Consul at New Orleans reports that during the year just closed experiments have been carried on from that port, primarily by the United Fruit Company, for the introduction of Louisiana-Texas oil as fuel for ocean-going craft. The experiment appears to have been successful, and the s.s. "Breakwater," which is now equipped with oil burners under her boilers, makes her trips to the tropics in less time, with fewer hands, and with less expense in the matter of fuel.

The United Fruit Company estimate that each steamer thus equipped should save some 2,000*l.* in the 12 months. The vessels can make from half to three-quarters of a knot more per hour than with coal.

The British Vice-Consul at Pensacola reports that a good deal of phosphate rock is shipped through Pensacola from Mount Pleasant, Tennessee, by the Central Phosphate Company of Tennessee, which company has plants in South Florida. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,942.*)

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 28th March last, were as follow:—

Wheat	...	...	...	...	25s.	2d.
Barley	...	...	...	...	22s.	4d.
Oats	...	...	...	...	17s.	0d.

For further particulars see p. 42.

A statement is published on p. 43, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 28th March last, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

BRITISH INDIA.

In the annual report of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce there is an interesting section relating to the possibility of establishing a cotton-seed oil industry in India. That country is now exporting some 2,000,000 cwt. of cotton-seed annually, and it is only natural to enquire whether it would not pay to crush this seed in India and to ship only the products. The enquiries instituted by the Upper Indian Chamber have decided two important matters. It has often been asserted that Indian cotton-seed was unsuitable for oil making upon a profitable basis, because of the relatively poor yield of oil, and the extreme tenacity with which the lint adheres to the capsules, rendering special machinery necessary and the process over-costly. Experimental crushings in America do not support this view. One firm of machinery makers expressed the opinion that the "seed was very rich in oil, equal, if not better, than the American." Another, that the seed was "slightly richer in oil than that produced in America, and the same process would be necessary and sufficient to produce oil in your country as is used here." None of the firms consulted, apparently, found any difficulty in working the seed.

Commenting on the above, the "Times of India" says that these opinions are only what would have been expected in the circumstances. If certain firms find it profitable to pay freight on a bulky cargo like cotton-seed and treat it in England, obviously there can be no great deficiency in oil or practical difficulty in delinting the hulls. Indeed there seems to be no insuperable obstacle to the establishing of the industry in India, and if the seed is continued to be exported instead of the manufactured products, it will be a reflection upon the enterprise of the commercial community. The industry is worth 10,000,000l. annually to America, and some Indian ginning factories might profitably turn their energies in this direction.

Agriculture.

CEYLON.

In an appendix to the annual report of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, it is stated that the total exports of tea in 1902 amounted to 149,047,048 lbs., as against 146,726,066 lbs. in 1901.

The following table shows the countries of destination of the exports in the last two years:—

To.	1901.	1902.
	Lbs.	Lbs.
United Kingdom	106,911,806	103,656,288
Australia	20,696,995	18,907,795
Russia	9,498,801	12,550,856
America... ..	3,654,105	6,328,450
China and Singapore	2,963,967	4,498,644
India	1,108,043	860,461
Africa and Mauritius	412,225	712,601
Other countries (chiefly European)... ..	1,480,124	1,531,953
Total Lbs.	146,726,066	149,047,048

The past season, says the report, has been on the whole unfavourable for yield. A drought in the early part and an excessive rainfall during the last three months of the year, account for the crop falling considerably short of the estimate, but total shipments of tea were, notwithstanding, the largest recorded. Foreign markets, however, continue to expand, so that shipments to the United Kingdom were 2,000,000 lbs. less than the previous year, and 10,000,000 lbs. less than 1900, when Ceylon and India over-supplied the home trade to the extent of 20,000,000 lbs. The average price of Ceylon tea sold in London during 1902 was 6½d. per lb., a further decline of ¼th of a penny, as compared with previous year, and 1d. per lb. less than 1899, the last season of normal stocks. The quality has been on the whole good, and the poor prices obtained can only be attributed to the large stocks carried forward from 1901. The position is now gradually improving, total stocks at the end of 1902 being 8,000,000 lbs. less than at the beginning of the year.

The most encouraging feature at the present moment is the rapidly increasing manufacture and demand for Ceylon green tea. Commencing slowly in 1898, the manufacture rose to 500,000 lbs. in 1900, 1,500,000 lbs. in 1901, and 4,000,000 lbs., last season. This rate of increase appears likely to continue during the coming year, and will very materially assist in the further reduction of the stocks of black tea.

Agriculture.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

A Colonial Office report on Southern Nigeria for the year 1901 states that the development of the nurseries lately established in that Colony for the supply of rubber seedlings has been the principal work done in the year under review. Transplantation has not been very extensive owing to the seedlings not being hardened sufficiently for removal, and requiring to await the beginning of the rains for the necessary moisture. Over 3,000,000 seeds have been collected to take the place of the existing seedlings when transplanted.

Botanical stations exist at Old Calabar and Onitsha. Extensive developments are in progress at the latter station under the supervision of a European officer of practical experience. Necessary machinery has been arranged for and satisfactory progress generally been made. Coffee was sold and exported to England in small quantities, and a satisfactory increase in this respect is looked for under the efficient supervision now given to it.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

A report on Trinidad and Tobago for the year 1901-2 states that the exports of cocoa produced locally in that year (30,154,768 lbs.) were 230,000 lbs. less than in the previous year, and the prices realised were somewhat lower. The industry, however, is a very profitable one, and the large tracts of land which continue each year to be brought under cultivation are principally planted in cocoa, though rubber is now beginning to receive attention.

RUSSIA.

H.M. Consul-General at Odessa, in his recent report, states that the total amount of tea which passed the Custom-house was 4,100 tons, of which 3,900 tons were cleared at Odessa.

The industry of breaking up boxes of tea and packing it in small parcels for sale is now established in Odessa, which has thus become a centre of distribution.

Tea comes both from London and the East.

There was in 1901 a considerable increase in the quantity of tea that passed through Odessa to Moscow, caused by fear of complications in China. The main increase in the tea import was in Ceylon tea, which now forms from 25 to 30 per cent. of the whole quantity imported at Odessa. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,943.*)

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 26th March was **Cotton Statistics.** 110,039 and the number imported during the 13 weeks ended the 26th March was 1,439,309. As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 26th March, 7,212 bales, and for the 13 weeks, 126,580.

For further details see p. 42.

SIKKIM.

The Board of Trade have received, through the India Office, a copy of the appendices to the Sikkim Administration Report for the year 1901-2, upon which the following table, showing the value of Yatung trade, is based. Comparative figures for 1900-1 have been added :—

Trade across the Sikkim Tibet Frontier.

	Imports from Tibet <i>via</i> Yatung.		Exports to Tibet <i>via</i> Yatung.		Total.	
	1900-1.	1901-2.	1900-1.	1901-2.	1900-1.	1901-2.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise	6,20,289	7,93,060	6,67,235	7,25,876	12,87,524	15,18,936
Treasure—						
Gold ...	8,800	5,360	—	1,440	8,800	6,800
Silver ...	1,15,080	86,012	64,880	48,000	1,79,960	1,34,012
Total ...	7,44,169	8,84,432	7,32,115	7,75,316	14,76,284	16,59,748

In the export trade, an increase of Rs. 66,053 is noticeable in cotton goods, chiefly white and dyed drills and cambrics. There is also a large increase in Chinese silks to the extent of Rs. 65,229. Further noteworthy increases took place in the following:—Iron bars and sheets, tobacco, indigo, maize, embroidery, turquoise, chinaware, buttons, &c.

As regards the import trade, that in sheep wool returned to the normal, and in ponies, musk, lambskins, and mules, large increases took place. Imports of Chinese silk fell off considerably.

CEYLON.

With reference to the notice on pp. 127-8 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 15th January last, respecting the **Pearl Fishery of 1903.** Ceylon pearl fishery of 1903, it may be noted that the "Ceylon Government Gazette" of 6th March, publishes statements of the valuation and produce of

Miscellaneous.

oysters taken from the following pearl banks, viz., the East Cheval Paar, the South-East Cheval Paar, and the North-East Cheval Paar, in February last.

These statements may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

The following comparative table, showing the value of the trade of Southern Nigeria in 1901, and the share of the various countries therein, is extracted from a report on that Colony recently issued by the Colonial Office :—

	1900.	1901.
Imports from—	£	£
United Kingdom... ..	927,905	1,072,962
British Colonies	6,256	4,708
Germany	87,489	104,008
Holland	83,378	97,565
United States of America	6,053	4,663
Spain	3,212	3,027
France	—	2,531
Other countries	1,290	7,652
Total	£ 1,115,583	1,297,116
Exports to—	£	£
United Kingdom... ..	672,900	798,693
British Colonies	215	7,487
Germany	385,806	392,795
Holland	8	10,817
United States of America	—	—
Spain	—	—
France	74,156	43,505
Other countries	519	409
Total	£ 1,133,604	1,253,706

In the same report it is stated that the timber industry, though still in its infancy in the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, already shows satisfactory results; 3,000 logs of mahogany were shipped from the Western Division of the Protectorate alone, representing a value of some 90,000*l.* The industry not being yet three years old, this result, says the report, must be considered a fair beginning.

Further on in the report it is stated that the timber trade is capable of great development. It has already given, and will still further give, a return for any outlay incurred. It is worthy of the attention of merchants in itself, apart from any general commercial business which may be undertaken in the Protectorate.

*Miscellaneous.***SOUTHERN NIGERIA—continued.**

The same report states that British coins form the currency of the Protectorate with the exception that the native-born use a medium of exchange which varies with the particular district. Though the principle of cash trading between European and native extends every year, it will be a very considerable time before the present system of barter ceases.

Currency. Brass rods, manillas, and copper wires (cheethams) valued respectively at, approximately, 3*d.*, 4*d.*, 4*d.*, are used for transactions between natives, and for payments under native courts, but every year sees a larger distribution of cash as the further parts of the Protectorate become developed. During the late months of the year cash was introduced throughout a large area in the Aro country, between the Cross River and the Niger, and efforts were made to supplant native currency by cash with considerable success.

The importation of specie during each of the years 1897-8 to 1901-2 was as follows:—

1897-1898.	1898-1899.	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.
£ 29,202	£ 29,290	£ 36,372	£ 182,386	£ 182,266

Specie was exported in 1901-2 to the amount of 27,600*l.* to the United Kingdom, and 7,360*l.* to other countries.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

The following tables, showing the value of the imports into and the exports from Trinidad and Tobago, by Trade in 1901-02. countries, during the year ended 31st March, 1902, as compared with the calendar years, 1898-1900, are extracted from a report recently issued by the Colonial Office:—

Imports.

From—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901-2.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	796,359	949,685	881,394	920,509
British Colonies	224,520	229,680	169,344	213,689
United States of America ...	496,169	628,324	605,405	674,147
Venezuela ...	574,613	531,151	652,751	600,410
Other countries ...	191,395	197,125	190,864	242,845
Total ...	£ 2,288,056	2,535,965	2,500,258	2,651,600

*Miscellaneous.***Exports.**

To—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901-2.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	713,211	839,665	983,055	706,173
British Colonies	52,963	57,524	78,970	80,519
United States of America	863,455	885,772	792,439	817,244
Venezuela	255,419	318,000	289,054	842,984
Other countries	425,075	421,980	441,081	498,781
Total	£ 2,310,933	2,572,891	2,584,549	2,445,651

BRAZIL.

The "Diario Oficial" of Brazil of the 7th March contains a statement of the exports from Ceara during the years 1901 and 1902 by countries of destination and by articles, and the "Diario Oficial" of 10th March contains full statements for 1902 of exports, imports and shipping at Santos furnished by the Dock Trade at Santos. Company of that port.

REPORTS OF BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Bradford.—At a meeting of the Council of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, held on the 25th March, the very unsatisfactory condition in which Persian wool is sent to this country was referred to, and a circular was adopted reporting on this matter to brokers. It was stated that the wool trade section of the Chamber had suggested certain amendments in the Board of Agriculture leaflet, relative to the preparation of British wool for the market, and that a request had been made that the Board of Agriculture should circulate the leaflet as soon as possible.

A letter was read from the General Post Office, with reference to obtaining an increase in the maximum length for parcels sent abroad, stating that efforts were being made to obtain in foreign countries an extension of the principle of admitting parcels up to the maximum dimensions allowed in inland service.

Reference was made to the procedure of the Association of Chambers of Commerce.

Reports of British Chambers of Commerce.

Halifax.—At the last monthly meeting of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce the usual trade reports were presented. The Chairman (Mr. J. H. Murgatroyd) reported that there appeared favourable prospects of the Great Central Railway Company granting improved facilities.

It was resolved that the Postmaster-General be approached with a view to obtaining an increase in the weight of parcels carried for a penny.

The Chamber decided to support the Bill for extending the amount within the jurisdiction of the County Court to 100*l.*, and also the Bill relating to the amendment of the Bankruptcy Laws.

The question of cheaper return tickets on the railways was discussed.

Newcastle and Gateshead.—A meeting of the Council of the Newcastle and Gateshead Chamber of Commerce was held recently, Mr. W. S. Daglish presiding.

The secretary reported that at the recent meeting of the Associated Chambers in London, the three resolutions placed on the agenda paper by the Chamber had been unanimously carried.

Mr. J. E. Davidson stated that with Mr. Beckingham and the secretary he had attended the meeting in London in regard to the new German Customs Bill. After discussion, a sub-committee was appointed to watch this important matter in the interests of the trade of the district. It is intended to form a local committee of traders who will be affected by this new tariff to act with the committee in London.

The suggestion to publish a monthly journal was deferred till the next meeting.

Dundee.—The Annual Meeting of the Dundee Chamber of Commerce was held on the 25th March. The President, Mr. A. B. Gilroy, was in the chair, and in moving the adoption of the annual report he referred to the unsatisfactory condition of jute cargoes during the past year. It was hoped that next season arrangements would be made for the Harbour-master to regulate the discharge of vessels so as to allow space in the sheds to admit of the "damages" being classified and removed soon after their discharge.

Other matters considered were the German Tariff and Free Trade.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 13 Weeks ended 26th March, 1903.

	Week ended 26th Mar., 1903.	13 Weeks ended 26th Mar., 1903.	Week ended 26th Mar., 1903.	13 weeks ended 26th Mar., 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	90,151	1,164,377	3,463	58,842
Brazilian	10,392	65,823	1,127	10,633
East Indian	843	19,776	1,070	7,750
Egyptian	8,276	179,237	1,502	47,066
Miscellaneous	377	10,096	50	2,289
Total	110,039	1,439,309	7,212	126,580

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 28th March, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

		Average Price.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
Week ended 28th March, 1903		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
		25	2	22	4	17	0
Corresponding week in—							
1896		24	7	21	10	18	3
1897		27	10	22	3	16	3
1898		35	3	27	11	17	10
1899		24	11	26	2	16	11
1900		25	10	24	11	17	2
1901		26	0	24	9	18	0
1902		27	2	27	2	20	7

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 28th March, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 28th Mar., 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	9,885	6,861
Sheep and lambs	"	12,160	4,634
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	707	735
Fresh meat :—			
Beef... ..	Cwts.	89,796	62,899
Mutton	"	122,707	19,621
Pork	"	12,029	15,895
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	95,817	66,941
Beef	"	8,287	2,222
Hams	"	19,744	22,985
Pork	"	5,760	8,714
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	15,822	15,487
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	10,825	14,015
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	86,668	68,399
Margarine	"	20,877	16,411
Cheese	"	27,844	27,774
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	152	475
" cream	"	102	71
" condensed	"	22,795	21,183
" preserved, other kinds	"	547	182
Eggs	Grt. Hndr.	388,810	348,534
Poultry and game	Value £	25,269	29,844
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	9,228	5,666
Lard	"	41,829	33,113
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	2,231,939	745,800
Wheat-meal and flour	"	880,024	158,400
Barley	"	518,578	365,800
Oats	"	147,158	122,100
Peas	"	20,814	78,800
Beans	"	5,190	11,700
Maize or Indian corn	"	1,021,872	599,700
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	36,862	18,826
Apricots and peaches	"	12	9
Bananas	Bunches.	11,717	47,508
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	488	154
Lemons	"	22,626	23,746
Oranges	"	219,351	187,088
Pears	"	234	264
Plums	"	35	—
Strawberries	"	—	1
Unenumerated	"	2,179	149
Hay	Tons.	4,008	6,802
Straw	"	1,784	1,051
Hops	Cwts.	587	600
Locust beans... ..	"	4,125	25,004
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	124,380	91,562
Potatoes	Cwts.	58,278	48,049
Tomatoes	"	22,498	10,182
Unenumerated	Value £	10,067	13,741
Vegetables, dried			
Preserved by canning	Cwts.	4,524	718
	"	5,205	7,986

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of February, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1901, in two Volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 7d. for the first, and 4s. 10d. for the second Volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and, in the second volume, details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 17th March:—State of the Labour Market in February; Fatal Accidents to Workpeople in 1902; Agricultural Holdings in Scotland from August to December, 1902; The Price of Bread, Wheat and Flour; Recent Progress in Co-operation; Recent Cases under the Conciliation Act; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the Annual Series issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,944. Baltimore. 1903.

Increased imports of iron ingots, blooms, pig iron and cement. Falling-off in tin.

British merchants holding their ground in fine cotton goods, velveteens and Nottingham laces and linens, but losing in millinery.

Prospects for British coal.

Decline in shipping due to depression in grain trade.

New electrical enterprise.

Export and import returns, with values. Statements of average prices of produce. Freight rates. Shipping and immigration returns.

This publication contains also reports by the Vice-Consuls at Norfolk, Va., and Newport News, Va.

Government Publications.

2,945. Estimates of the German Empire for 1903.

Deficit in 1902 attributed to continued commercial depression, and also to temporary loss of revenue arising from Brussels Sugar Convention.

Increased expenditure on

navy, army, public works, &c., to be met by the raising of a loan.

Detailed tables showing estimates of Revenue and Expenditure in 1903.

2,946. Coquimbo, 1901.

Advance in general trade movement, giving openings for Manchester goods, ironmongery, crockery-ware, &c.

Expansion in British shipping trade.

Increase in output of copper, but falling off in manganese ore, owing to want of transport and loading facilities.

Detailed statistics of import, export, and shipping trade.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Emigration. Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended 31st December, 1902. [Cd. 1,464.] Price 1½d.

This is the report on the work of the Emigrants' Information Office during 1902, and shows that the operations of that office were very considerably extended during last year. In 1902, 21,900 letters were received, as compared with 13,138 in 1901, being an increase of 66·7 per cent. of the total in 1902, 20,044 were applications by or on behalf of intending emigrants, as compared with 11,214 in 1901. The number of personal enquiries rose from 2,057 in 1901 to 3,532 in 1902.

Emigration Statistics of Ireland for the year 1902. [Cd. 1,489]. Price 2d.

According to this return the number of emigrants who left Irish ports increased from 39,870 in 1901, to 40,401 in 1902, the latter figure representing 9·1 per 1,000 of the estimated population of Ireland in the middle of the year. As regards the destinations of the emigrants, being natives of Ireland, who left during 1902, 83·8 per cent. went to the United States, 11·7 to Great Britain, 1·8 per cent. to Canada, 1·5 per cent. to New Zealand and Australia and 1·2 per cent. to other countries.

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

The following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the Annual and Miscellaneous Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—			AMERICA, NORTH—	
	Denmark:			United States of America:	
2934	Denmark (Supplementary) ... 1901	1d.	2942	New Orleans ... 1902	2½d.
	France:		2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky 1902	1½d.
2941	French Guinea ... 1901	½d.	587	<i>Coal Industry of the United States in 1901</i> ...	2d.
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	½d.			
	Germany:			Mexico:	
2945	Estimates of the German Empire ... 1903	1d.	2925	Mexico ... 1901	2½d.
	Italy:				
2930	Finances of Italy ... 1902	1½d.		AMERICA, SOUTH—	
2933	Italy ... 1901	3d.		Argentina:	
2936	Naples ... 1902	1½d.	2940	Argentine finances 1901-02	1½d.
2935	Venice ... 1901-02	1½d.			
	Russia:			Brazil:	
2943	Odessa (Supplementary) ... 1901	1½d.	2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	½d.
			2928	Rio de Janeiro ... 1901	1½d.
	Spain:			Chile:	
2924	Bilbao ... 1901	2½d.	2946	Coquimbo ... 1901	½d.
	Turkey:				
2932	Crete ... 1901	1d.		WEST INDIES—	
2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899-1901	2d.	2927	Hayti ... 1901	1d.
	AFRICA—			ASIA—	
2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1d.	2929	Siam:	
588	<i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda</i> ...	½d.		Chiengmai ... 1901	1d.
				PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
			2937	Samoa ... 1902	1d.

*Government Publications.***Treaty Series.**

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.		Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries	½d.
	France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1d.
	ASIA—	
	Corea :	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	½d.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C. :—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½d.
378	British Guiana	2½d.
379	Mauritius	3½d.
380	Basutoland	3d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2½d.
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½d.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1d. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.

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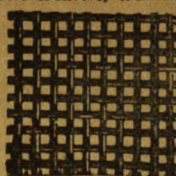
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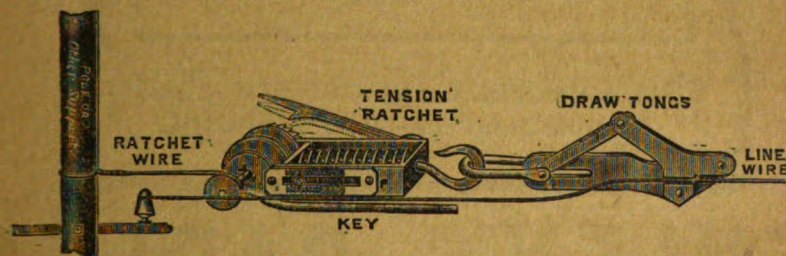
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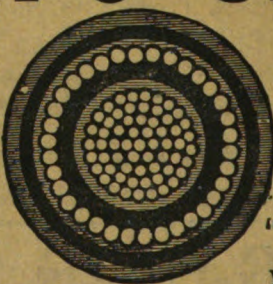
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Vol. XLI.

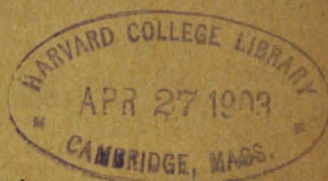
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THE

Board of Trade Journal

(With which is Incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

APRIL 9, 1903.

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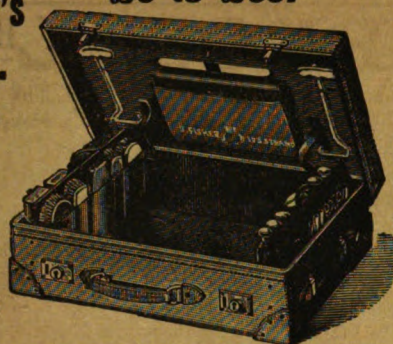
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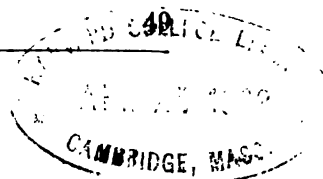
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and Blue Serge Jackets and Overalls. Estimates given for Contracts.



THE Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. XLI.]

April 9, 1903.

[No. 332.]

All applications respecting subscription to the "Board of Trade Journal," or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London, to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. iv. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office on pp. 94-5.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on pp. 92-3.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: WAR OFFICE.

Sealed tenders for the supply of bread, flour, live cattle and meat for military services, during six months, from the 1st June, 1903, will be received until 12 o'clock noon, on the following dates:—Meat and live cattle tenders, on Wednesday, 22nd April, 1903, bread and flour tenders, on Friday, 24th April, 1903, by the officers in charge of the under-mentioned districts.

Scottish District ...	Edinburgh.
North Eastern District ...	York.
North Western District ...	Chester.

Openings for British Trade.

Western District ...	...	Devonport.
Southern District...	...	Portsmouth.
South Eastern District	...	Dover.
Salisbury Plain District	...	Tidworth House, Andover.
Eastern District ...	...	Colchester.
Thames District ...	...	Chatham.
Woolwich District	...	Woolwich.
Home District ...	...	23, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.
Aldershot District	...	Aldershot.
Guernsey and Alderney	...	Guernsey.
Jersey ...	...	Jersey.
Belfast District ...	...	Belfast.
Dublin District ...	...	Curragh Camp.
Cork District ...	...	Cork.

Forms of tender and conditions of contract may be obtained on application at the above-named District Headquarter Offices, by letter addressed to the Chief Staff Officer, or in person between the hours of 10 and 4 o'clock.

The tenders must be properly filled up, signed, and dated; and no tenders will be noticed unless delivered upon the proper form, in time, at the above-named District Offices, under sealed envelope, marked "Tender" on the outside.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply rails and fishplates, 85 lbs. per yard; fishbolts and nuts; wrought iron spikes; and crossings and switches for use on the Indian State Railways.

The conditions of contract may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), or may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W. Tenders are to be delivered at that office by 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, the 16th April, 1903, after which time no tender will be received.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is also prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply covered goods waggons, and wheels and axles 5 ft. 6 in. gauge for the Indian State Railways.

The conditions of contract may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of

*Openings for British Trade.***BRITISH INDIA—continued.**

Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), or may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W. Tenders are to be delivered at that office by two o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 21st April, 1903, after which time no tender will be received.

The Board of Trade have been notified by the East Indian Railway Company that the Company is prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of:—

1. Steel bull-headed rails,
2. Steel fishplates,
3. Steel fish bolts with special nuts,

as per specifications to be seen at the Company's Offices, Nicholas Lane, E.C.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary marked "Tender for Steel Rails," or as the case may be, not later than one o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the 15th April.

The Company reserves to itself the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For each specification a fee of 1*l.* 1*s.* is charged, which cannot under any circumstances be returned.

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade to the effect that the directors of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Limited, are prepared to receive tenders for steel axles and axle boxes.

Specifications and forms of tender can be obtained at the Company's office, No. 132, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C. For each specification a fee will be charged, which will not be returned. Tenders to be delivered not later than noon on Tuesday, 21st April, 1903. The directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

CANADA.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Offices, Victoria Street, S.W., where further information may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A Liverpool firm ask for addresses of Canadian millers engaged in the preparation of all kinds of maize products.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—continued.

Enquiry has been made respecting the suitability of Canadian hemlock for railway ties, and the supplies of this timber available.

A North of England firm wishing to buy Canadian sheep skins (raw) ask to be referred to shippers or receivers of same.

The proprietors of a belting preservative wish to hear from a firm in Canada willing to take up their wholesale agency for the Dominion.

A Glasgow importer asks to be placed in communication with asbestos mine owners and operators in Canada.

Canadian Enquiries.—A Canadian firm of commission agents are seeking an agency for steel rails and waste for railway supplies.

The names of users of spool-wood and "Excelsior" packing are required by a firm in Canada who are taking up the manufacture and export of these goods.

Colonial Enquiry.—The names of sugar refiners in Canada are asked for by an exporter in British Guiana.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Enquiries relating** Section of the Imperial Institute, from the Curator of which Section further particulars to **Canadian Trade.** may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A manufacturer of worsteds and woollens asks to be placed in communication with Canadian wholesale importers of textiles.

An importer of spool wood in large quantities desires addresses of Canadian producers of the article.

A firm manufacturing leather bags, portmanteaus, &c., also harness and similar classes of goods, are prepared to appoint influential Canadian firms to act as their representatives.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

AUSTRALIA.

Tenders will be received at the Supply and Tender Board Office, Adelaide, up to 3 o'clock p.m. of Tuesday, 19th May, for the supply and delivery at the Public Stores, Port Adelaide, of:—

**Tenders for
Spring Washers
in South
Australia.**

150,000 "Grover" grooved spring washers for $\frac{3}{4}$ inch fishbolts.

Openings for British Trade.

Alternative tenders will be received for either "Grover" plain or "Verona" spring washers, to samples to be seen at the above office; or for spring washers of any approved type, samples to be submitted with tender.

Customs duty (if any) to be paid by the contractor.

Samples and specifications can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the above office, where specifications may also be purchased, price 2s. 6d. per copy. No tender will be recognised unless on the proper printed form, and a time must be quoted for delivery of the whole quantity tendered for, the Supply and Tender Board to have the right of accepting a portion or the whole of any tender.

Tenders should be indorsed "Tender for Fishbolt Washers."

The successful tenderer will be required, within seven days of date of notice of acceptance, to make a deposit equal to five per cent. of the total value of the accepted tender as security for the due fulfilment of contract.

Neither the lowest nor any tender necessarily accepted.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

A notification appears in the "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 17th March to the effect that sealed tenders, marked on the cover "Tender for Overcoats," will be received by the Chairman of the Tender Board, Controller and Auditor-General's Office, Parliament Street, Cape Town, until noon on Friday, the 12th June, 1903, from persons willing to supply the articles enumerated in the schedule below, required for the use of the Post Office Department of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, for a period commencing on the 1st July, 1903, and ending 30th June, 1906.

Should the successful tenderer not carry out his contract to the satisfaction of the Government, the Postmaster-General may give four months' notice to terminate the said contract.

Particulars of the number and description of the articles required are given below, and samples can be inspected on application to the Agent-General for Cape Colony, 100, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Sample overcoats, which should be addressed to the Controller of Stores, G.P.O., Cape Town, must be submitted.

The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Openings for British Trade.

SCHEDULE.

Estimated No. of W. P. Coats required annually.	Sizes (including assorted and cross sizes).	Description.
20	36 ins.	<i>Pattern.</i> —Black waterproof overcoats with sleeves and cape, with shoulder strap 3 ins. wide on left shoulder for protection of coat from wear through friction of strap of bag—one inside breast pocket. Capes for 54-in. coats to be 26 ins. long. In other sizes length of capes to be proportionate.
30	38 "	
30	40 "	
25	42 "	
30	44 "	
25	46 "	
30	48 "	
30	50 "	
30	52 "	
28	54 "	
15	56 "	
5	58 "	
2	60 "	The coats to be in every respect according to sample, sewn seams throughout, guaranteed waterproof, and to stand an average of three wet seasons in a Cape climate.
300		

The estimated number of articles given in the first column of the schedule may be taken as the probable number which will be required for each year, but the department does not bind itself to order from the contractor these or any other specified quantities.

In the event of a firm tendering, the full names of the persons constituting the firm must be inserted in the tender, as well as the full names and addresses of the sureties.

The conditions of contract are contained in the "Gazette," which may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

TRANSVAAL.

With reference to the notice on pp. 567-8 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th March, respecting the adoption by the Johannesburg Town Council of a report by the Consulting Engineers with regard to a system of light, power, and tramways for Johannesburg, the Board of Trade have now received through the Colonial Office a copy of the Minutes of a further meeting of the Town Council containing a list of the general conditions which are to govern contracts for electric light, power and tramways for Johannesburg, together with a list of additional clauses applying to contracts for machinery, &c., and to cases where erection on site is included.

**Plant and
Equipment for
Electric Tram-
ways, Lighting
and Power at
Johannesburg.**

Openings for British Trade.

The Minutes containing the above conditions may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

EGYPT.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade has received a communication from the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways to the effect that tenders will be received up to the 27th April for the supply of 70,000 pine and 70,000 oak sleepers, in accordance with the conditions of contract, statement of which may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Intending contractors can obtain copies of the specification on application to Lieut.-Col. Western, R.E., C.M.G., Broadway Chambers, Westminster, S.W., upon payment of 2s. each copy.

A further communication has been received from the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways to the effect that tenders will be received up to the 30th May next for the purchase of the permanent way material and rolling stock now in use on the steam tramway between Port Said and Ismailia, in accordance with the conditions of sale.

Tenders must be accompanied by a stamped paper of 30 millièmes, and should be sent by registered post addressed to "Monsieur le Président, Chemins de fer de l'Etat, Caire."

Intending purchasers can obtain the conditions of sale upon application to Lieut.-Col. Western, R.E., C.M.G., Broadway Chambers, Westminster, S.W., and upon payment of 2s. per copy.

ASIATIC RUSSIA.

H.M. Consul-General at Odessa, in his supplementary report for 1901, quoting from the annual report for that year of the Odessa Committee of Commerce and Industry, states that the years 1900 and 1901 saw large shipments to the Far East both of Russian and foreign goods, partly in anticipation of the introduction of a Customs *régime*, and partly because of the presence there of large numbers

of troops.

The shipments were excessive, the markets were overstocked,

**List of
Commodities
suitable for
Region served by
East China
Railway.**

Openings for British Trade.

and heavy losses resulted. Although Dalny has been opened as a free port, the demand has not yet overtaken the supply, and there is no present need for shipments. The Odessa Committee of Commerce and Industry are confident that this difficulty can be partly explained by the want of knowledge of the markets, and that it will pass. They look forward to a renewed demand, the more so that duty is now leviable on foreign goods at Vladivostock and Nikolaevsk.

The Siberian Railway, it is said, will deflect passengers far more than goods. As the East China Railway is already able to deliver goods speedily, the Committee of Commerce and Industry give a list of commodities which the Russian commercial agents think may have a sale in the regions this railway crosses. They are as follows:—Glass, manufactured goods, articles suitable for Chinese clothing (plush, "lasting," and cloth), and also bright coloured silk pattern goods, cheap boots, india-rubber goloshes, waterproof overalls, sunshades, umbrellas, lamps, sugar and confectionery, cast-iron goods, nails, hooks, hoop iron, &c., simple agricultural implements, cheap cigarettes and cigars, petroleum and lubricating oils, common soap and cheap perfumery, candles, tar, paper and cheap wall paper. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,943.*)

GERMANY.

The Board of Trade have received a communication from H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg, intimating that a Hamburg firm wish to be supplied with addresses of producers in the United Kingdom of malt commings, brewer's grain, and barley beans, with a view to obtaining the agency of the same.

Enquiries should be addressed to H.B.M. Consul-General, Hamburg.

PORTUGAL.

The "Diario do Governo" of 28th March contains a Royal Order granting to Francisco do Albuquerque a "patent of introduction of new industry," for ten years, for a factory of aluminium manufactures intended for domestic uses.

The "Diariodo Governo" of 31st March contains a decree approving a provisional contract with Augusto Eduardo Freire de Andrade for the construction and working of urban and suburban railway lines by animal traction for the town of Coimbra.

*Openings for British Trade.***SPAIN.**

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 31st March contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened at 11 a.m.,
Telegraph Posts. 30 days after the date of the "Gaceta," in the office of the Inspector-General of the Telegraph Section, in the Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs, Carretas, 10, Madrid, for the supply of 10,000 telegraph posts, 7,000 of 7 metres length, of chestnut, sabine, black poplar, and pine; 2,000 of 8 metres length, and 1,000 of 9 metres length, of chestnut, black poplar, and pine, at the following upset prices:—

For chestnut or sabine of 7, 8 and 9 metres, 7·70 pesetas, 8·80 pesetas, and 9·90 pesetas, or about 4s. 6d., 5s. 2d., and 5s. 10d. per post respectively.

For black poplar, of 7, 8, 9 metres, 7·30 pesetas, 8·50 pesetas, and 9·70 pesetas, or about 4s. 8d., 5s., and 5s. 9d. per post respectively.

For pine of 7, 8, 9 metres, 7 pesetas, 8 pesetas and 9 pesetas, or about 4s. 1d., 4s. 8d., and 5s. 3d. per post respectively.

A provisional deposit of 5 per cent. of the amount of the material for which the proposal is made at the upset price is required.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 3rd April contains a decree authorising the company called "Ferrocarriles Economicos del Bajo Llobregat," concessionaires of the tramway known as "Cortes y Paralelo," to substitute electric for animal power, under certain conditions which are stated.
Electric Equipment for Tramways.

The same "Gaceta" contains a decree granting an appropriation of 14,000 litres of water per second from the river Ebro in the district of Bozoo, province of Burgos, to Don Francisco Saiz Rodrigo, for working the mills of Camajon and Bachicabo.
Water Power Plant.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 4th April contains a Royal Order authorising the Ministry of Agriculture to purchase insecticides, zinc in sheets and other material, necessary for the extinction of locust, without the formalities of calling for tenders, in order to immediately combat this plague and prevent its destroying the crops in the provinces threatened.
Insecticides.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

H.M. Consul at Baltimore, in his recent report to the Foreign Office, states that a new enterprise at Baltimore which is worthy of notice is the Susquehanna Power Company. It is the intention of this
Electric Power Plant.

Openings for British Trade.

concern to utilise the immense volume of water of the Susquehanna River, to generate by means of dams and turbines an electric current to be transmitted to Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington and Chester for use in manufacturing, for street and domestic lighting and for tram car propulsion. The company, adds the Consul, has already purchased the electric light companies in Baltimore and the neighbourhood as an accession to its property. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,944.*)

ARGENTINA.

In a recent report to the Foreign Office, on the trade of Rosario in 1902, H.M. Consul at that port states that this season's crops being large, merchants have disposed of all their agricultural machinery and implements as also farm utensils generally, and this will necessitate large orders for these articles being placed during the present year.

The Consul goes on to say:—"Local requirements afford a ready market for the following articles:—

**List of Articles
for which there
is a ready
Market.**

"Hessians for bags, twine (for sewing bags), paints, oils, varnishes, &c. (large quantities of these latter are now coming from the United States), good wire (plain and barbed) for fencing purposes, cement, corrugated iron (for roofing, &c.), crockery and glassware, lumber, kerosene, cotton and dry goods generally, stationery, drugs, fancy goods, sheep dips, tea (in fancy tins), coal.

"There are branches of three British banks in this city, and merchants before giving credit to unknown persons, who may apply for it, should endeavour to ascertain the position of such persons."

With reference to the notice on pp. 153-4 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 22nd January last, respecting the development of the butter and creamery business in Argentina, and the consequent enquiry for a market for caseine, a despatch has been received at the Board of Trade from H.M. Consul at Buenos Aires, forwarding a sample of caseine manufactured in Argentina, which was quoted worth 5l. per 100 kilogs. (220 lbs.) in Liverpool.

This sample may be seen by persons interested on application at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Openings for British Trade.

ARGENTINA—*continued.*

The "Boletin Oficial" of Argentina dated 27th February contains a notice calling for tenders to be presented in the Secretariat of the "Direccion General de Obras de Salubridad," No. 1,255 Rivadavia, Buenos Aires, and which will be opened at 2 p.m. on 20th May next, for the construction of a system of sewers and drainage works in the city of Salta, according to the plans and estimates which may be seen at the address named. A provisional deposit of one per cent. of the amount of the proposal is to accompany any tender.

The "Boletin Oficial" of 28th February contains a notice calling for tenders to be presented at the same place, and which will be opened at 2 p.m. on the 27th May next, for the construction of sewers in the districts numbered 17 and 23 of the capital (Buenos Aires). A provisional deposit of one per cent. of the amount of the proposal is required to accompany any tender.

The "Boletin Oficial" of 28th February contains a notice calling for tenders, to be presented up to 3 p.m. on 1st July next in the Ministry of Public Works, for the construction and equipment of the railway from Punta de los Llanos to San Juan. A provisional deposit of 30,000 dols. m.n., or about 2,643*l.*, is required to qualify any tender.

The "Boletin Oficial" of Argentina of 4th March contains a presidential order authorising the expenditure of 70,000 dols. m.n., or about 6,165*l.*, for the carrying out of a scientific expedition to the River Bermejo, in order to report upon its present condition as regards navigability, as well as upon the works which will be necessary in order to carry out its immediate or future improvement.

JAPAN.

In the report of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce for February, it is stated that the construction of the proposed Yokohama-Hachioji Railway, which was at first to be undertaken by the Japanese Government, will now, as has lately been decided, be passed over to private capitalists. On the 27th December, 1902, the Minister of Communications granted the promoters of the said railway in Yokohama a certificate permitting the construction.

Openings for British Trade.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS.

ARGENTINA.

Referring to the notice which appeared on p. 294 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 12th February, it is to be noted that by a presidential order, which appears in the "Boletín Oficial" of Argentina of 27th February, the Custom-house of Buenos Aires is authorised to accept bills at six months, for the amount of duties leviable upon intended exhibits. Such bills will be collected at the due date only if the exhibits thus introduced have not been re-embarked.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN

MARCH, 1903.*

I.—GENERAL.

The trade returns for March, 1903, show an increase in the value as compared with the corresponding month of 1902 of the **Imports** into the United Kingdom, and also of the **Exports** of British produce, and of the **Exports** of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the **Imports** in March, 1903, was 46,916,524*l.*, an increase of 6,018,663*l.*, or 14·7 per cent., as compared with those in March, 1902, whilst the total **Exports** amounted to 30,566,547*l.*, showing a total increase of 4,034,838*l.* The **Exports** of British produce alone show an increase of 2,890,956*l.*, or 18·0 per cent., as compared with March, 1902, whilst there is an increase of 1,143,882*l.*, or 26·5 per cent., in the **Exports** of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

II.—IMPORTS.†

The following table shows the value of the **Imports** for March, 1903, as compared with the corresponding months of 1902 and 1901, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

* Reference is made to the article on "The Changes in the Monthly Trade Accounts," published at pp. 296-300 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 12th February, for information as to the changes which have been made in these Accounts.

† The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in March, 1903.***Imports from Foreign Countries and British Possessions.**

	Month of March.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour	5,104,775	4,229,267	5,475,305	+ 1,245,918	+ 370,430
B. Meat, including animals for food.	4,155,374	3,489,058	3,868,890	+ 374,832	— 291,484
C. Other food and drink—					
1. Non-dutiable	4,884,925	4,478,718	4,992,082	+ 513,364	+ 107,157
2. Dutiable	5,533,602	3,866,048	3,935,641	+ 69,593	— 1,597,961
D. Tobacco	330,691	852,257	310,775	— 41,482	— 19,916
Total, Class I. ...	£ 20,009,367	16,415,368	18,577,593	+ 2,162,225	— 1,431,774
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke, and patent fuel ...	5,819	2	524	+ 522	— 5,295
B. Iron ore, scrap iron, and steel ...	388,393	395,122	433,943	+ 38,821	+ 145,550
C. Other metallic ores	493,988	561,456	493,821	— 70,835	— 367
D. Wood and timber	1,005,350	773,410	958,356	+ 184,946	— 46,994
E. Cotton	3,005,328	3,777,343	4,920,059	+ 1,142,716	+ 1,314,731
F. Wool	3,013,274	1,785,668	2,068,983	+ 983,317	— 344,289
G. Other textile materials	1,166,667	1,149,484	1,342,913	+ 193,329	+ 176,146
H. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums	2,333,775	2,207,386	1,864,735	— 342,651	— 389,040
I. Hides and undressed skins	673,598	619,956	728,842	+ 208,886	+ 53,239
J. Materials for paper making	244,338	246,996	239,530	— 7,466	— 4,808
K. Miscellaneous	1,703,660	1,806,684	2,014,544	+ 207,860	+ 310,884
Total, Class II. ...	£ 14,434,185	13,176,597	15,665,952	+ 2,489,445	+ 1,231,767
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	559,195	596,244	714,012	+ 115,758	+ 154,817
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof	1,734,648	1,761,142	1,626,686	— 134,456	— 97,972
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments	388,931	337,632	425,794	+ 88,162	+ 36,863
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus ...	—	—	5,980	+ 5,980	+ 5,980
E. Machinery	304,049	343,243	398,541	+ 56,298	+ 94,492
F. Ships (new)	—	—	479	+ 479	+ 479
G. Manufactures of wood and timber (including furniture)	180,414	183,097	189,568	+ 7,473	+ 9,155
H. Yarns and textile fabrics—					
1. Cotton	470,892	537,654	795,930	+ 258,276	+ 325,038
2. Wool	1,164,573	1,140,710	1,058,926	— 81,784	— 93,646
3. Other materials	1,969,910	1,877,639	2,008,536	+ 130,897	+ 38,626
I. Apparel	27,237	41,373	281,578	+ 240,205	+ 254,341
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	1,010,506	794,297	830,296	+ 35,999	— 180,210
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes and gloves)	1,064,597	852,802	1,073,388	+ 220,486	— 11,209
L. Earthenware and glass	383,200	376,168	403,905	+ 27,637	+ 20,605
M. Paper	899,875	847,789	430,993	+ 63,926	+ 30,820
N. Miscellaneous	2,021,917	1,879,691	2,286,083	+ 406,392	+ 264,166
Total, Class III. ...	£ 11,679,953	11,089,471	12,530,178	+ 1,440,707	+ 850,225
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassi- fied (including Parcel Post) ...	£ 302,551	216,515	142,801	— 73,714	— 159,750
Total value of Imports ...	£ 46,436,056	40,897,961	46,916,534	+ 6,018,603	+ 490,468

† Not included under following heads.

Comparing the imports of the principal articles last month with those of March, 1902, the chief increases and decreases are as shown in the following statement:—

Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in March, 1903.

Increases.			
£			
I.	A.	Wheat	1,119,155
		Wheat meal and flour	110,987
		Maize or Indian corn	105,656
	B.	Beef, fresh ...	127,514
		Mutton, fresh ...	214,890
		Bacon	96,620
	C1.	Butter	316,689
		Eggs	110,790
		Fish, cured or salted	86,955
	C2.	Apples, raw ...	139,370
Coffee		158,795	
II.	D.	Wood and timber, hewn	99,050
		Wood and timber, sawn or split ...	90,347
	E.	Cotton, raw ...	1,137,156
	F.	Sheep or 'lambs' wool	994,455
Decreases.			
£			
I.	C1.	B. Hams	94,187
		Cheese	59,276
		Lard	85,257
	C2.	Sugar, refined, and sugar candy ...	123,462
	G.	Jute	107,024
II.	H.	Cotton seed ...	76,184
		Flax or linseed ...	321,542
		Tallow and stearine	77,056
	K.	Gutta-percha ...	69,532
£			
II.— <i>ctd.</i>	G.	Flax, dressed and undressed ...	234,350
		Hemp, dressed and undressed..	52,249
		I. Goat skins, undressed ...	52,387
	K.	Caoutchouc ...	214,436
		Seeds, clover, and grass	56,057
		Cotton manufactures ...	69,628
	H1.	Cotton other than cotton manufactures ...	188,648
		Jute manufactures	92,469
	H3.	Silk manufactures—	
		Broad stuffs...	53,537
Ribbons, silk, or satin ...		80,959	
K.	Leather ...	177,773	
	Motor cars, including motor cycles ...	135,783	
£			
I.	C1.	A. Iron & steel manufactures, unenumerated	73,386
		B. Copper, unwrought, and part wrought ...	267,711
		H2. Woollen manufactures unenumerated	129,663

Decreases.

£				£					
I.	B.	Hams	...	94,187	III.	A.	Iron & steel manufactures, unenumerated	73,386	
	C1.	Cheese	...	59,276		B.	Copper, unwrought, and part wrought	...	267,711
		Lard	...	85,257			H2.	Woollen manufactures unenumerated	129,663
		C2.	Sugar, refined, and sugar candy	...				123,462	
	G.	Jute	...	107,024					
II.	H.	Cotton seed	...	76,184					
		Flax or linseed	...	321,542					
		Tallow and stearine	...	77,056					
	K.	Gutta-percha	...	69,532					

The following instances of increase in value combined with decrease in quantity, or *vice versa*, may be noted, viz. :—

			Increase.	Decrease.
I.	A.	Oats	88,618 cwts.	£32,554
	B.	Bacon	£96,620 ...	4,159 cwts.
	C1.	Lemons	4,205 cwts.	£1,127
		Onions	73,817 bushels	£2,107
	C2.	Cocoa	95,846 lbs.	£323
		Tea	£13,446 ...	7,933 lbs.
		Spirits, other than brandy and rum	£4,817 ...	63,594 proof gallons
D.	Staves of all dimensions...	2,071 loads	£1,245	
II.	H.	Petroleum	603,437 galls.	£17,271
	K.	Gum arabic	£1,266 ...	403 cwts.
	A.	Feathers, ornamental	10,201 lbs.	£24,958
		Pig-iron	£1,569 ...	2,555 tons
	B.	Rails, iron or steel	£6,215 ...	287 "
	L.	Tin	£10,435 ...	303 "
	N.	Plate glass... ..	840 cwts.	£3,201
	Stones, slabs, &c.	£1,121 ...	4,003 tons	

III.—EXPORTS.*

The following table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of March, 1903, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901, and the increase or decrease in each principal category :—

* The value of the Exports represents the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in March, 1903.***Exports of British Produce.**

	Month of March.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour ...	88,671	69,250	132,947	+	63,697
B. Meat, including animals for food	36,182	60,771	44,514	—	16,357
C. Other food and drink ...	895,054	986,806	846,649	—	90,157
D. Tobacco ...	54,482	60,092	55,011	—	5,081
Total, Class I. ...	£ 1,074,389	1,126,919	1,079,121	—	47,796
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke and patent fuel ...	2,393,520	2,067,938	2,152,523	+	64,585
B. Iron ore, scrap iron and steel ...	16,765	18,427	34,676	+	16,249
C. Other metallic ores ...	2,554	8,404	9,179	+	775
D. Wood and timber ...	400	2,601	2,430	—	171
E. Cotton ...	—	—	—	—	—
F. Wool ...	45,822	71,211	87,541	+	16,330
G. Other textile materials ...	11,237	19,881	16,594	—	3,287
H. Oil-seeds, nuts, oils, fats and gums ...	230,269	271,512	296,968	+	25,456
I. Hides and undressed skins ...	23,561	26,136	147,478	+	121,342
J. Materials for paper making ...	37,544	27,017	34,968	+	7,951
K. Miscellaneous ...	110,674	122,400	128,384	+	6,484
Total, Class II. ...	£ 2,872,336	2,655,527	2,911,241	+	255,714
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof † ...	2,076,113	2,261,999	2,809,704	+	527,705
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof † ...	582,769	493,689	609,764	+	116,075
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments ...	361,054	335,275	382,178	+	46,903
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus ...	106,638	36,740	220,380	+	183,540
E. Machinery ...	1,508,948	1,237,478	1,530,559	+	193,081
F. Ships (new) ...	2,778,851	606,626	443,057	—	163,569
G. Manufactures of wood and timber (including furniture) ...	75,334	93,469	144,014	+	50,545
H. Yarns and textile fabrics—					
1. Cotton ...	6,080,909	5,967,977	6,600,164	+	612,187
2. Wool ...	1,840,399	1,855,680	2,057,575	+	201,895
3. Other materials ...	1,058,321	959,474	1,034,951	+	75,477
I. Apparel ...	561,656	558,188	711,862	+	153,674
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours ...	1,017,124	1,030,593	1,203,696	+	173,105
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes, and gloves) ...	323,833	321,980	443,851	+	121,871
L. Earthenware and glass ...	204,198	211,885	270,554	+	58,669
M. Paper ...	167,886	194,292	143,736	—	19,444
N. Miscellaneous ...	1,968,604	1,843,624	2,181,870	+	338,246
Total, Class III. ...	£ 20,776,457	18,077,469	20,796,817	+	2,719,348
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post) †	298,111	357,323	331,015	—	36,308
Total value of Exports of British produce ...	£ 25,021,293	22,217,228	25,106,194	+	2,890,966

Exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce.

Total value ...	£ 5,200,525	4,314,471	5,456,353	+	1,142,882	+	257,838
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† Not included under following heads.

Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in March, 1903.

Comparing the exports of the principal articles of British produce and manufactures in March, 1903, with those of March, 1902, the chief increases and decreases are as follows:—

Increases.

	£			£
II.—A. Coal, coke and patent fuel	64,585	I. Apparel and slops	146,518	
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	527,705	J. Sulphate of copper	72,055	
B. Copper, unwrought and wrought ...	58,273	III. { Arms, ammunition and military stores ...	100,027	
III.—E. Steam engines ...	87,426	N. { Coal products, unenumerated ...	84,601	
Cotton piece-goods	444,240			
H1. { " manufactures of other sorts ...	135,774			

Decreases.

	£
III.—F. Ships, new	163,569

The following instances of increase in value combined with decrease in quantity, or *vice versa*, may be noted, viz. :—

		Increase.	Decrease.
I. { B. Cattle ... ..	...	£4,806	9 nmbr.
C. Hops ... ..	...	£965	818 cwts.
D. Tobacco and snuff ... ..	...	128,885 lbs.	£5,081
II. { G. Flax and hemp ... ..	...	855 cwts.	£3,287
H. Oil, seed ... ..	...	36 tons.	£10,061
H3. { Jute piece-goods ... ..	...	£932	239,000 yds.
Linen " ... ..	...	£9,265	771,360 "
III. { J. Bleaching materials ... ..	...	20,910 cwts.	£5,515
Chemical manure ... ..	...	£35,375	£4,959
IV.—Animals, living, other than horses	...	£1,091	796 nmbr.

IV.—TRADE FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1903.

The following table shows the value of the Imports from foreign countries and British possessions for the three months ended the 31st March last, as compared with the corresponding periods of the two previous years :—

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in March, 1903.***Imports from Foreign Countries and British Possessions.***

	Three Months ended 31st March.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour	15,348,347	14,695,359	14,714,810	+ 18,951	— 634,037
B. Meat, including animals for food	12,100,645	11,311,426	11,646,750	+ 437,324	— 451,895
C. Other food and drink—					
1. Non-dutiable... ..	13,305,037	13,256,608	14,265,615	+ 1,009,012	+ 980,578
2. Dutiable	13,562,537	13,582,305	10,347,865	— 3,234,440	— 3,214,672
D. Tobacco	1,051,758	1,101,872	1,079,835	— 22,037	+ 20,077
Total, Class I. ...	£ 55,368,324	53,847,565	52,056,875	— 1,791,190	— 3,311,949
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke and patent fuel ...	5,851	270	1,638	+ 1,368	— 4,213
B. Iron ore, scrap iron and steel ...	1,168,150	1,128,552	1,298,521	+ 169,969	+ 130,371
C. Other metallic ores	1,415,700	1,687,474	1,468,606	— 118,672	+ 53,106
D. Wood and timber	2,836,849	2,508,085	2,020,781	+ 112,696	— 216,068
E. Cotton	13,357,542	15,392,762	15,477,834	+ 85,072	+ 2,150,292
F. Wool	7,335,886	6,491,843	6,395,964	+ 1,904,021	+ 1,160,078
G. Other textile materials	3,952,180	4,253,868	3,588,472	— 665,396	— 363,706
H. Oil-seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums	5,871,494	6,664,127	5,919,277	— 744,850	+ 47,783
I. Hides and undressed skins	1,935,944	1,833,328	1,975,855	+ 142,527	+ 80,911
J. Materials for paper making	873,093	762,074	695,008	— 67,066	— 178,067
K. Miscellaneous	4,723,860	5,316,055	5,394,720	+ 178,665	+ 670,860
Total Class II. ...	£ 43,376,551	45,838,542	46,836,876	+ 996,334	+ 3,460,325
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,767,366	1,903,758	2,064,638	+ 160,885	+ 297,272
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof	4,859,864	5,020,582	4,210,836	— 809,746	— 649,028
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments	970,751	978,414	1,073,119	+ 94,705	+ 102,368
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus... ..	—	—	23,996	+ 23,996	+ 23,996
E. Machinery	874,341	1,061,644	1,131,899	+ 50,255	+ 267,559
F. Ships (new)	—	—	13,299	+ 13,299	+ 13,299
G. Manufactures of wood and tim- ber (including furniture)	514,185	514,575	531,537	+ 16,962	+ 17,352
H. Yarns and textile fabrics—					
1. Cotton	1,264,967	1,512,378	2,154,654	+ 642,281	+ 889,667
2. Wool	3,218,069	3,287,955	3,152,942	— 135,013	— 65,127
3. Other materials	6,180,484	5,263,325	5,430,332	+ 167,007	— 750,152
I. Apparel	61,370	113,773	674,432	+ 660,659	+ 613,062
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	2,498,388	2,372,290	2,301,635	— 70,665	— 196,763
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes, and gloves)	2,971,903	2,592,009	3,001,617	+ 409,608	+ 29,714
L. Earthenware and glass	952,088	1,090,769	1,106,879	+ 16,110	+ 154,794
M. Paper	1,063,403	1,066,925	1,221,515	+ 154,590	+ 158,112
N. Miscellaneous	5,424,112	5,533,136	6,034,636	+ 531,500	+ 630,524
Total, Class III. ...	£ 32,641,311	32,351,523	34,146,956	+ 1,795,433	+ 1,505,645
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassi- fied (including Parcel Post) ...	735,246	656,620	578,788	— 77,832	— 156,458
Total ...	£ 122,121,432	122,694,260	122,618,966	+ 924,745	+ 1,497,609

* The value of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

† Not included under following heads.

Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in March, 1903.

The value of the **Exports** of home produce and of foreign and colonial produce during the first three months of 1903, as compared with like periods of 1902 and 1901, is as shown in the subjoined table:—

Exports of British Produce.*

	Three Months ended 31st March.			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour	225,012	202,026	373,911	+ 171,885	+ 148,899
B. Meat, including animals for food.	102,558	175,604	144,938	— 30,666	+ 42,380
C. Other food and drink	2,707,609	3,007,701	2,699,369	— 308,332	— 8,240
D. Tobacco	148,370	213,902	162,909	— 50,993	+ 14,533
Total, Class I.	£ 3,183,549	£ 3,599,233	£ 3,381,127	— 218,106	+ 197,578
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke, and patent fuel ...	7,149,726	6,101,568	6,367,859	+ 266,291	— 781,867
B. Iron ore, scrap iron, and steel ...	48,036	63,517	89,380	+ 25,863	+ 40,344
C. Other metallic ores	13,775	19,389	25,687	+ 6,298	+ 11,912
D. Wood and timber	3,980	3,657	8,023	+ 4,366	+ 4,043
E. Cotton	—	—	—	—	—
F. Wool	124,136	174,489	290,410	+ 115,921	+ 166,274
G. Other textile materials	33,197	57,329	43,128	+ 14,201	+ 9,931
H. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums	622,063	754,100	793,918	+ 39,818	+ 171,835
I. Hides and undressed skins	72,998	88,408	415,764	+ 327,376	+ 342,786
J. Materials for paper making	91,016	87,177	101,943	+ 14,766	+ 10,927
K. Miscellaneous	351,647	423,110	421,776	— 1,332	+ 70,131
Total, Class II.	£ 8,511,594	£ 7,772,744	£ 8,557,910	+ 785,166	+ 46,816
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	5,983,432	6,084,749	7,533,635	+ 1,448,886	+ 1,550,203
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof	1,526,943	1,531,265	1,639,139	+ 107,874	+ 112,194
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments	1,034,128	1,006,917	1,084,003	+ 77,086	+ 49,875
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus ...	829,270	749,355	341,035	— 408,222	— 488,237
E. Machinery	4,259,206	3,971,419	4,366,514	+ 415,095	+ 127,905
F. Ships (new)	3,572,456	1,738,604	925,751	— 807,853	— 2,646,705
G. Manufacturers of wood and timber (including furniture)	258,931	273,674	402,259	+ 128,585	+ 143,328
H. Yarns and textile fabrics— 1. Cotton	18,971,310	18,713,287	19,597,239	+ 883,952	+ 625,929
2. Wool	6,047,361	6,281,295	6,903,307	+ 522,012	+ 755,926
3. Other materials	3,097,138	2,991,788	3,215,971	+ 224,188	+ 118,833
I. Apparel	1,814,030	1,849,458	2,274,349	+ 424,891	+ 460,319
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	2,838,979	2,840,448	3,228,726	+ 388,278	+ 389,747
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes and gloves)	1,025,938	1,010,310	1,336,964	+ 326,654	+ 311,026
L. Earthenware and glass	755,260	676,690	803,760	+ 127,170	+ 48,500
M. Paper	469,676	373,435	436,671	+ 63,236	— 33,004
N. Miscellaneous	5,679,168	5,303,984	5,889,562	+ 585,578	+ 210,306
Total, Class III.	£ 58,163,248	£ 55,391,573	£ 59,898,883	+ 4,507,310	+ 1,735,635
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclas- sified (including Parcel Post)	£ 953,888	£ 1,035,138	£ 949,346	— 85,792	— 4,547
Total value	£ 70,512,379	£ 67,796,688	£ 72,787,266	+ 4,988,578	+ 1,974,987

Exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce.

	£	£	£	£	£
Total value	16,218,120	15,459,018	17,664,399	+ 2,205,381	+ 1,446,379

* The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship and are known as the "free on board" values.

† Not included under following heads.

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in March, 1903.***V.—SHIPPING IN MARCH, 1903.**

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended March, 1903, amounted to 3,038,625 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,725,269 tons, as against 2,678,411 tons entered and 3,447,628 tons cleared in the month of March, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during March, 1903, amounted to 2,524,977 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,496,957 tons, as against 2,538,182 tons entered, and 2,460,338 tons cleared in March, 1902.

VI.—THREE MONTHS' SHIPPING (JANUARY-MARCH).

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the three months ended 31st March, 1903, amounted to 8,471,060 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 10,697,829 tons, as against 8,243,863 tons entered and 9,933,287 tons cleared in the similar period of the year 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during the first three months of 1903 amounted to 7,403,620 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 7,354,645 tons, as against 7,524,468 tons entered and 7,375,488 tons cleared in the first three months of the year 1902.

TRADE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

The following summary table has been prepared, showing the total imports and exports of the principal countries for which the particulars can be given for January, 1903, and referring in all cases to the same period, viz., the month of January. The corresponding figures for 1902 and 1901 are added for comparison:—

	Imports. One Month ended January.			Exports (Domestic). One Month ended January.		
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium* ...	5,931,000	7,040,000	7,039,000	4,583,000	4,810,000	5,188,000
France ...	14,724,000	13,159,000	14,213,000	10,863,000	11,827,000	13,186,000
Spain* ...	2,937,000	2,882,000	2,562,000	2,195,000	2,218,000	2,419,000
Austria-Hungary	5,622,000	5,897,000	6,277,000	5,369,000	5,939,000	6,030,000
Egypt ...	1,159,000	1,268,000	1,472,000	1,919,000	2,028,000	2,216,000
United States ...	14,439,000	16,487,000	17,731,000	27,787,000	26,328,000	27,416,000
Japan ...	1,864,000	1,876,000	2,472,000	1,650,000	2,034,000	2,066,000
British India ...	5,166,000	5,595,000	4,714,000	6,756,000	7,999,000	7,691,000
Canada ...	2,715,000	3,052,700	3,509,000	2,034,000	2,764,000	3,196,000
United Kingdom	45,988,000	50,142,000	46,227,000	21,754,000	24,269,000	24,904,000

* Value of principal articles only.

Trade of Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

In the case of Belgium, France, Austria-Hungary, Japan, and Canada, the import figures given in the above summary represent imports for home consumption only. In all cases the export figures represent exports of domestic produce.

A comparison of the total figures for the two months ended 28th February is possible for four countries, as follow, viz. :—

	Imports. Two Months ended February.			Exports (Domestic). Two Months ended February.		
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium* ...	11,648,000	12,776,000	14,847,000	9,706,000	10,691,000	11,242,000
France ...	29,448,000	28,235,000	30,882,000	22,428,000	26,096,000	27,807,000
United States ...	27,877,000	30,727,000	34,925,000	50,912,000	47,103,000	52,943,000
United Kingdom	87,702,000	91,823,000	86,787,000	45,791,000	45,581,000	47,679,000

* Value of *principal* articles only.

The latest figures available as regards other countries from which returns are received by the Board of Trade, are as follows :—

	Imports.			Exports (Domestic).		
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Russia (11 mths.)	56,354,000	51,279,000	50,816,000	67,918,000	70,536,000	79,834,000
Portugal (12 ")	13,438,000	13,010,000	12,506,000	6,959,000	6,364,000	6,398,000
Italy (11 ")	61,664,000	62,986,000	66,697,000	48,318,000	50,020,000	52,073,000
Mexico (11 ")	11,975,000	11,325,000	12,916,000	14,829,800	13,215,400	15,812,300

COTTON GOODS TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

With reference to the statement on pp. 628-9 of the Board of Trade Journal of the 26th March last, the following table, which shows the exports of cotton goods (domestic manufacture) from the United States of America to the undermentioned destinations during the two months ended February, 1902 and 1903, has been compiled from the official statistics issued by the United States Government :—

Cotton Goods Trade of the United States of America.

To	Two Months ended February.	
	1902.	1903.
Coloured and uncoloured cloths—	Yards.	Yards.
United Kingdom	1,189,000	835,000
France	1,000	6,000
Germany	31,000	10,000
Other Europe	904,000	310,000
British North America	1,676,000	2,783,000
Central America and British Honduras	2,678,000	2,628,000
Mexico	560,000	217,000
Cuba	588,000	274,000
Other West Indies and Bermuda	4,594,000	5,358,000
Argentina	248,000	270,000
Brazil	1,608,000	1,764,000
Chile	1,241,000	2,192,000
Colombia	3,057,000	5,034,000
Venezuela	1,824,000	941,000
Other South America	1,206,000	1,086,000
Chinese Empire	71,410,000	45,083,000
British East Indies	3,702,000	1,810,000
Hong-Kong	28,000	183,000
Japan	13,000	134,000
British Australasia	750,000	628,000
Philippine Islands	823,000	748,000
Other Asia and Oceania	2,201,000	8,425,000
British Africa	1,039,000	585,000
All other Africa	72,000	49,000
Other countries	16,000	—
Total quantity Yards	101,458,000	89,856,000
Total value Dols.	5,022,000	4,561,000
Other cotton goods—	Dollars.	Dollars.
United Kingdom	109,000	166,000
Belgium	11,000	7,000
France	3,000	6,000
Germany	122,000	208,000
Netherlands	3,000	7,000
Other Europe	9,000	17,000
British North America	360,000	348,000
Central America and British Honduras	64,000	43,000
Mexico	53,000	44,000
Cuba	20,000	28,000
Other West Indies and Bermuda	28,000	43,000
Argentina	50,000	26,000
Brazil	12,000	11,000
Chile	7,000	6,000
Colombia	12,000	22,000
Venezuela	3,000	2,000
Other South America	5,000	6,000
Chinese Empire	3,000	2,000
British East Indies	—	1,000
Hong-Kong	1,000	1,000
British Australasia	93,000	74,000
Philippine Islands	22,000	7,000
Other Asia and Oceania	8,000	10,000
British Africa	18,000	32,000
All other Africa	3,000	3,000
Other countries	1,000	1,000
Total value Dols.	1,021,000	1,122,000
Grand total value of all cotton goods exported...	6,043,000	5,683,000

MONAZITIC SAND IN BRAZIL.

Many square leagues of this sand exist both on the foreshore and in the interior of the States of Espirito Santo and Bahia, the former belonging to the Federal Government, and the latter to the individual Governments of the States named.

An enquiry has been set on foot by the Federal Government to determine the limits of their foreshore rights, and, if possible, to come to some arrangement with the States of Bahia and Espirito Santo for the conjoint working of these monazitic sands.

A contract was entered into on the 31st of December, 1901, with certain concessionaires for working these sands. This contract fell through last year by the non-fulfilment by the concessionaires of the financial conditions attached to it.

In the Budget Law passed on the 29th of December, 1902, Congress authorised the Federal Government to let by public competition the working of these monazitic sands, or to revive, if they wish, the contract of the 31st December, 1901, or to enter into arrangements with the Governments of the States of Bahia and Espirito Santo to work the same conjointly.

By telegrams since received from His Majesty's Minister in Brazil, it appears that tenders for the concession to work these monazitic sands in a given area of the State of Espirito Santo for five years may be called for at any time. The particular conditions will probably be those of the contract above referred to, a copy of which may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

BRITISH INDIA.

With reference to the notice published on p. 113 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 17th July, 1902, the Board have now received a copy of a Customs Circular (No. 4 of 1903), imposing, with effect from 1st March, 1903, a *special* duty, under section 8 B (1) of the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1902 (No. 8 of 1902), upon sugar imported into British India from the under-mentioned countries.

The Act referred to, which is only to remain in force until the 31st August, 1903, provides that *special* duties shall be levied on sugars imported into British India from countries in which the "surtax," or excess of import duty over internal duty, amounts to more than 6 francs per 100 kilos. in the case of refined sugar, or 5 francs 50 centimes per 100 kilos. in the case of other sugar.

By the terms of the Circular in question the following are the rates

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

of the *special* duties to be levied on sugars imported into British India from the countries named, and the duties are to be levied without regard to whether the sugar is imported directly from the country of production or otherwise, or whether it is imported in the same condition as when exported from the country of production or has been changed in condition by manufacture or otherwise :—

Countries.	Kinds of Sugar.	Rate of Special Duty per Cwt.
		R. a. p.
France	Refined sugar	0 9 8
	Unrefined sugar	0 8 5
Denmark	Candy and sugar in whole or broken loaves, plates, cakes, &c., whatever the colour may be, and white polarised sugar which is lighter than the Amsterdam standard sample No. 18	0 8 10
Argentine Republic...	Refined sugar	5 7 5
	Unrefined sugar	4 0 8
Russia	Refined sugar	*9 10 2
	Unrefined sugar	*5 15 10

* These *special* duties are in lieu of the "additional" duties previously in force, which have been cancelled by Customs Circular No. 5 of 1903.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette," dated 20th February, 1903, containing a notice issued by the Department of Trade and Customs on the 16th February last, under section 146 of the Customs Act of 1901, to the effect that the instrument known as Sikes' hydrometer is approved as the hydrometer by means of which the strength of spirits shall be ascertained for the purposes of levying the duty thereon.

Sikes' Hydrometer to be used for Testing Spirits.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The Board of Trade have received from the Controller of Customs, Cape Town, the following information in regard to the Customs treatment of samples imported into Cape Colony :—

Customs Regulations relating to Samples. Samples which being comparatively valueless are admitted free of duty, but samples, however, of any intrinsic value are liable to duty. Duty is levied in the same way as on ordinary articles of merchandise, but in no case, when assessing duty, are special sample discounts allowed, but only the ordinary trade discount. The Customs Department also

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

receives deposits in respect of such imported samples as can be identified on re-exportation, but only for an amount in excess of the duty and for a limited period.

In Natal the Board of Trade are informed that on proof that imported goods are really samples, a deposit to cover the duty is accepted by the Customs and such deposit is returned on the goods being produced to the Customs on re-exportation.

As regards the treatment of samples in the Transvaal, the Secretary to the Governor states that in the case of samples of very small commercial value, no deposit of duty is required on importation. If samples are of commercial value a deposit is required at the first town the traveller bringing them alights at for business purposes, of the amount of the import duty leviable plus 25 per cent. This deposit is returned when the traveller produces a booking receipt for the transport of his samples out of the country.

Similar information in regard to the Orange River Colony has been received from the Collector of Customs at Bloemfontein, who states that no duty is levied in that Colony on samples of no commercial value, such, for instance, as one boot or one shoe. When samples of commercial and intrinsic value are imported and are declared to be samples intended to be taken out of the Colony when the purpose for which they were imported has been served, a deposit equivalent to the amount of duty is accepted and is refunded when the goods are submitted for re-exportation.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Government Gazette" for 6th March, 1903, containing a "Liquor Licensing Ordinance, 1903" (No. 8 of 1903), issued for the purpose of consolidating and amending the laws relating to the sale of wines and spirituous or malt liquors in the Orange River Colony.

The present Ordinance came into force on 10th March, 1903, and provides, *inter alia*, that:—

Every person importing intoxicating liquor into the Orange River Colony in quantities* not less than those for the sale of which a wholesale license is required, shall obtain in advance in each instance a permit for such importation from a Resident Magistrate, Assistant Resident Magistrate, or special Justice of the Peace. Every such permit shall state the description of such liquor required to be imported, specifying the quantity of each kind in imperial gallons and the place from which the said liquor

* A wholesale liquor license authorises the holder to sell and deliver liquor in quantities of not less than 2 gallons, if in cask; or one case containing not less than 12 reputed quart or 24 reputed pint bottles to be delivered at a time.

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is ordered and the place at which it is to be delivered, and shall further state whether the said liquor was manufactured in South Africa or imported from beyond the seas; and a copy of such permit shall immediately be forwarded by the officer issuing the same to the Collector of Customs at Bloemfontein.

A special Justice of the Peace shall not issue a permit authorising the importation of spirituous liquors distilled in South Africa upon which the import duty provided for by Article 6 of Law 18 of 1897 is payable.

Importers of any quantity of spirituous liquors distilled in South Africa, less than the two imperial gallons for which a permit is required in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall be obliged, immediately after crossing the border of this Colony with such quantity of spirituous liquor, to proceed to the nearest Resident Magistrate, Assistant Resident Magistrate, Customs Officer or other person specially appointed for that purpose by the Lieutenant-Governor to report the importation of such liquor and pay the duty.

No person shall sell, barter, give or otherwise supply to any coloured person any intoxicating liquor: provided always that liquor may be supplied to a coloured person for medicinal purposes or sacramental use, and in such case the burden of proof shall be upon the person who supplied it to show that the liquor was required for such purpose.

FRANCE.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a French Presidential Decree, dated the 29th March, increasing the maximum and minimum duties on pepper imported into France from 400 and 208 francs to 450 and 312 francs per 100 kilogs. respectively. The duty on pepper imported into France from French colonies and possessions is also increased from 104 to 208 francs per 100 kilogs.

A recent Circular of the French Customs Department states that it has been decided to allow the temporary admission of watch frames for escapement fitters, even if holes are bored in such frames. It has hitherto only been allowable to mark the places for the holes.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information to the effect that a circular has been issued by the French Customs, notifying that the payment of the "sanitary tax" is now imposed on harness and saddle horses imported by strangers temporarily staying in France. Such horses are also to be subjected to sanitary inspection on arrival, but

**Temporary
Admission of
Watch Frames.**

**Regulations
respecting
Temporary
Importation of
Horses.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

this inspection may be dispensed with if the animals arrive on those days or at those hours when the Custom-house is not open for business of this kind. In such cases, however, the animals must be accompanied by a legally attested certificate (available for three days only) furnished by a veterinary surgeon of the place of their origin, giving a description of the animals, and declaring that the locality from which they came was, and had been for six weeks preceding their departure, free from any disease contagious to horses. Race horses are exempt from sanitary inspection under the same conditions.

With reference to the notice published at p. 486 of the "Journal" for the 5th March last, relating to the promulgation of a French Law authorising the Government to extend provisionally, by Decree, the application of the Minimum Tariff to "Colonial Produce" imported into France from certain countries and their possessions, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a Decree applying the provisions of the above-mentioned Law to the British East African, West African, and Uganda Protectorates.

**Application of
the Minimum
Tariff to "Colonial
Produce" from
Certain British
Protectorates.**

FRANCE—MADAGASCAR.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of a copy of the "Journal Officiel de Madagascar" for the 21st February last containing the text of a Decree issued by the Governor-General on the 14th February, regulating the importation and exportation of live-stock into Madagascar.

**Regulations for
the Importation
of Live-stock.**

The regulations, which confine the importation of live-stock to certain ports, are only to come into force at these ports by degrees as the necessary organisation is provided; their entry into operation will be made known by a notification published in three issues of the "Journal Officiel de Madagascar" at intervals of one week.

The principal provisions of the Decree so far as relative to importation are as follows:—

The importation of horses, mules, asses, cattle, sheep, goats, and swine is permitted at the following ports only, viz.:—

Diego-Suarez, Vohemar, Tamatave, Fort-Dauphin, Tulear, Alajunga, Analalara and Nossi-Be.

Animals of the species mentioned above are, on disembarkation, to be conducted by their owners to a sanitary enclosure where they will be examined within 24 hours by the veterinary officer of the district. Cattle, with the exception of calves less than one year old, will always be submitted to the "tuberculine" process on importation.

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***FRANCE—MADAGASCAR—continued.**

Animals found to be healthy will be returned to their owners on payment of the following fees for veterinary examination —

Oxen, 2.50 francs per head (including the charge for the "tuberculine" process); horses, asses and mules, .2 francs per head; sheep, lambs, goats, kids, swine, and sucking pigs, 25 centimes per head.

No fees will be leviable for housing the animals in the pens and lazarettos, but the owners or conductors of animals will be liable for all charges for slaughtering, burying, transportation, and necessary disinfection, and will also have to provide for the feeding, cleaning, and keep of their animals.

Animals found to be suffering from a contagious disease are to be re-exported immediately, or, in default, will be slaughtered, no indemnity being afforded to the owners. Such animals as, without being themselves diseased, have been exposed to the danger of infection previous to or during disembarkation will be detained in quarantine by order of the veterinary officer of the district, after which they will be, if found to be liable to communicate contagious disease, either re-exported immediately, or, in default, slaughtered without compensation; in the contrary case, importation will be sanctioned subject to payment of the fees already enumerated.

Infraction of these regulations will be punishable by imprisonment for a period of from 1 to 15 days, and the infliction of a fine of from 1 to 100 francs, or by the imposition of either one of these penalties.

A further Decree, signed by the Governor-General of Madagascar on the 24th February, and published in the "Journal Officiel de Madagascar" for the 25th February, provides for the abolition of all export duties leviable on produce exported from Madagascar, with the exception of the duty of 15 francs per head leviable on bullocks exported from the island. The exportation of cows and heifers is, as heretofore, prohibited.

SPAIN.

Adverting to the notice on p. 547 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 12th March, it is to be noted that the "Gaceta de Madrid" of 1st April contains a Royal Order declaring 34.44 per cent. to have been the average rate of exchange (premium of exchange on Paris) during the second fortnight of March, and that the consequent reduction in the rate of Customs duties payable in gold will be 26 per cent. during the first fortnight of April.

**Rate of Exchange
for the
Adjustment of
Customs Duties
payable in Gold.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The following is a list of some Decisions affecting the application of the Customs Tariff of the United States, which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington for the guidance of United States Customs Officers and others:—

Customs Decisions *Cotton crash towelling* in the piece, bleached, but having red, blue, and other coloured stripes running lengthwise (produced in the weaving of the cloth, and constituting a substantial portion of the surface of the fabric) is properly dutiable as "coloured," and not as "bleached" cotton cloth, according to count of threads, weight, value, &c., under the so-called countable provisions of Schedule I. of the Tariff, relating to "cotton manufactures."

Imitation precious stones.—Manufactures of metal and paste, paste being the component material of chief value, not exceeding an inch in dimensions, in imitation of precious stones, are dutiable as "imitations of precious stones" at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, and not as "manufactures of paste."

Felt bands.—Unwoven felt bands are dutiable at the rate of 44 cents per pound and 60 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 370 of the Tariff.

Seed peas.—The term "seed peas" in paragraph 250 of the Tariff, applies to selected varieties of peas ordinarily known as vegetable seeds, which are sold under various fancy names, and are planted in gardens and on truck farms to raise green peas, used as food for table or culinary purposes.

Black-eyed marrowfat and white-eyed marrowfat peas.—Dried peas of these varieties, chiefly used as seed to raise peas for culinary purposes in the form of green peas, are dutiable as seed peas, at the rate of 40 cents per bushel, under the said paragraph 250.

Field peas.—The Canadian field pea, sometimes called the "Canadian beauty" pea, which is adapted to the purposes of raising ensilage and forage for cattle, or for enriching the soil by being ploughed under, and which is imported almost exclusively for manufacturing purposes, such as the making of split peas for soup, and for other consumption purposes not culinary, cannot be classified as a seed pea, but is dutiable, when in a dried state, under the same paragraph at the rate of 30 cents per bushel, as "peas, dried, not specially provided for."

Wool grease refined.—A substance which is in fact wool grease need not be commercially known as such in order to come within the provisions of paragraph 279 of the Tariff, and is dutiable as wool grease unless definitely, uniformly, and generally known in trade by some other name. Refined wool grease, although not commercially known as wool grease, is dutiable at the rate of one-half cent per pound under the said paragraph.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Lace curtains.—Lace curtain panels, a class of lace articles made to cover glass panels in doors, and also lower sashes of windows, are lace window curtains, and where made on the Nottingham lace curtain machine they are dutiable under paragraph 340 of the Tariff. Lace curtains made partly on Nottingham lace curtain machines and partly on other machines are dutiable under paragraph 339.

Waste from lead linings of acid furnaces.—The substance which is scraped from the leaden walls which line the chambers of furnaces in which sulphuric acid is made is not dutiable as lead dross, but is dutiable as waste at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 463 of the Tariff.

Fishhooks and flies.—Fishhooks or flies of feathers and metal, feathers being the component material of chief value, are not dutiable as "feathers . . . manufactured," under paragraph 425 of the Tariff, but under the provision for manufactures in part of metal in paragraph 193.

Stained-glass windows not works of art.—Stained-glass windows for memorial chapels are held to be subject to classification under the provision in paragraph 112 of the Tariff, for "stained or painted glass windows, or parts thereof," and not under paragraphs 702, 703 or 454, or section 3, relating to "works of art" and "paintings."

Antiseptic preservatives.—Antiseptic preservatives, composed of a mixture of boracic acid and borax in varying proportions and used as a preservative in sausages, &c., are properly dutiable according to the component material of chief value thereof by virtue of section 7 of the Tariff, and not as a chemical compound or salt under the provisions of paragraph 3.

Invoice value—Commission.—The commission part of an invoice value is dutiable when declaration is made by the seller as the agent of the purchaser.

Sponge waste, consisting of the clippings from merchantable sponges, which is used chiefly in the manufacture of paper, but to a substantial and appreciable extent for other purposes, is dutiable under paragraph 463 of the Tariff at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* as "waste, not specially provided for," and is not dutiable as "sponges" under paragraph 82, nor is it free of duty under paragraph 632 as "waste . . . fit only to be converted into paper."

Bonded manufacturing warehouse.—A recent Decision provides that unmanufactured imported materials may be separately withdrawn from a bonded manufacturing warehouse and exported without the payment of duties.

Fluted glass reflectors.—Rectangular pieces of glass which have been silvered and fluted, which are neither plate glass, cylinder or crown glass, nor looking-glass plates, used entirely for the manufacture of reflectors for gas and other lights, are dutiable under paragraph 112 of the Tariff, as manufactures of glass not specially provided for.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BRAZIL.

The Brazilian "Diario Official" for the 3rd March contains the text of a Circular issued by the Directoria Geral dos Correios, notifying that prints, chromographs, oleographs, and printed wares generally will pay the import duty specified in the Customs Tariff for such articles, even when they are destined for private persons or are imported for gratuitous distribution. Printed books, newspapers, periodicals and reviews, are also subject to duty when imported by individuals for their personal use, unless the amount of duty leviable is less than one milreis, in which case these articles are exempted from payment of Customs duty.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The Mercantile Marine Committee met on the 3rd April, and again on the 4th, at the Board of Trade. In the absence of Sir Francis Jeune, G.C.B., Mr. Walter J. Howell, C.B., the Deputy-Chairman presided. The following members were also present:—Mr. W. F. G. Anderson, Captain H. Acton Blake, Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., Captain A. J. G. Chalmers, Colonel J. M. Denny, M.P., Vice-Admiral R. M. Lloyd, C.B., and Mr. J. Havelock Wilson.

Evidence was given by Mr. William Bowen, of the Llanelly Chamber of Commerce, on various schemes for training seamen, by Mr. W. R. Nicholson and Mr. A. E. Gunson, representing the Ship Store Dealers and Importers of Liverpool, and by Mr. W. R. Hooper, Ship Store Dealer of Cardiff.

The Committee have decided that they will not take any further evidence, and have now adjourned until the 23rd April, when they will proceed to consider their report.

RUSSIA.

In his recent report to the Foreign Office H.M. Consul-General at Odessa states that in 1901 the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company despatched two steamers to the Persian Gulf. In order to develop trade with Persia, reduced railway and steamer freights have been established on goods from Petersburg, Moscow, Tula, Kharkov, Kiev, Warsaw, Sosnovitz and Lodz by way of Odessa to Maskat, Jask, Bandar-Abbas, Linga, Bushire, Basrah, Baghdad, Jibuti, Jeddah and Aden.

Shipping and Transport.

The rates from Odessa on the undermentioned articles are as follow :—

Articles.	Freight per ton.
	£ s. d.
Petroleum*	1 10 2
Manufactured goods†	1 8 10
Sugar	1 7 7
All other articles	1 6 3

* 23 kopecks per pound.

† 22 kopecks per pound.

(Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,943.)

SPAIN.

A despatch, dated 29th March, has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Corunna, reporting that a new service of steamers to Cuba, direct from Corunna to Havana and Vera Cruz, has been established. The steamers of the "Hamburg-Amerika-Linie" will commence calling at Corunna on the 17th April, when the steamship "Prinz Adalbert" will leave Corunna for the above-mentioned ports.

The Consul adds, that the opportunity for a regular line of steamers to take passengers and cargo direct from Corunna to Cuba, has been on several occasions pointed out in his commercial reports.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Washington, transmitting the text of "An Act to further regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the States," forbidding the carriage of goods at less than the published rate, and providing penalties for the disregard of this prohibition.

Under this Act it is unlawful for any person or firm to receive any rebate or discrimination in respect of the transportation of any property in inter-state or foreign commerce by any common carrier.

The full text of the Act may be seen by persons interested on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

BRITISH INDIA.

In the "Indian Review" for February it is stated that a patent has just been obtained for an improved artificial stone, for which several advantages are claimed by the inventor. The chief among these is its property to withstand climatic changes, as the chemicals used in its preparation prevent it from cracking or splitting after a time. It can stand a considerable amount of pressure, and is guaranteed to be perfectly watertight. By the use of this stone the flooring is rendered thoroughly smooth and solid, the cost of wooden flooring is saved, while a far better and cheaper surface is ensured compared with the ordinary Coba floor. This patent stone, it is stated, is already in use in several places, including some of the largest buildings now being built in Bombay, with very satisfactory results.

RUSSIA.

The special correspondent of the "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York) reports the production of platinum in Russia in the year 1902 as follows, in pounds:—Société du Platine, of Paris, 159; Count P. P. Schouvaloff, 99; Prince Demidoff, 53; Kolli, 40; small, 15; offered in the market, 80; total, 446 pounds (16,056 lbs.) The metal "offered in the market" was, it is stated, really stolen, or obtained by unauthorised workers. All of this platinum was produced in the Ural.

Only a small part of this metal is used in Russia. Nearly all of it is exported at once to London or to Hanau, Germany, where it is refined.

FRENCH GUIANA.

The quantity of gold declared for entry at Cayenne during 1902 was, according to the French "Journal Officiel," 4,645 kilogs., against 4,021 kilogs. during the year 1901. The most productive placers during last year were those of Haut Maroni (Inini), which contributed 2,108 kilogs. towards the total, those of Haut Mana with 1,058 kilogs., and those of Approuague with 629 kilogs.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul at Fiume transmitting a report on asphalt mining at Vergoraz, Dalmatia, from which it appears that the price of the asphalt f.o.b. at the ports of

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

shipment (Torre di Norino and Metcovich) varies between kr. 6.25 (5s. 3d.) and kr. 6.50 (5s. 5d.) per 100 kilogs. for at least 10,000 kilogs., the Vergoraz product being superior in quality to the Italian. German vessels take all the shipments, and hitherto Hamburg has been the only port of destination.

H.M. Consul further states that a refining mill is in course of construction at Vergoraz.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 4th April were as follow:—

Corn Prices.

Wheat	...	...	...	...	25s. 3d.
Barley	...	...	...	...	22s. 6d.
Oats	...	...	...	...	17s. 0d.

For further particulars see p. 89.

A statement is published on p. 90, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 4th April, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

AUSTRALIA.

The following table, taken from the Monthly Statistical Abstract of Western Australia for January, shows the total yield of the principal crops and quantity of wine made in Western Australia in each of the three seasons 1899-1900 to 1901-1902:—

					Season ended 28th February.		
					1900.	1901.	1902.
Grain crops	...	...	...	bushels	1,108,497	899,331	1,167,304
Hay	...	...	...	tons	70,078	103,813	89,729
Potatoes	...	...	...	"	8,378	4,836	5,739
Root crops	...	...	...	"	1,349	927	767
Wine	...	...	...	galls.	86,802	130,377	185,485

*Agriculture.***BRITISH HONDURAS.**

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 3 of last week's issue of the "Journal," respecting the proposed construction of light railways or tramways in British Honduras, it may be noted that the Colonial Secretary at Belize, in his communication, stated that, in the event of the proposed lines being carried into effect, a banana plantation started on the line and gradually developed into a rubber and cocoa estate would, it is believed, if worked by any one possessed of the necessary capital, energy and general knowledge of the business, prove a great success and yield a large profit.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

According to "Bradstreet's" (New York) of 21st March, it is estimated that there are now in the United States some 200,000,000 or more apple trees, and these yield each year about 176,000,000 bushels of fruit. In years when the crop is bountiful 3,000,000 bushels are exported, and enough kept in the country to provide two bushels for each inhabitant. This represents the annual per capita consumption. Sixteen states produce 147,289,424 bushels of apples, while the rest of the Union produces only 28,107,802 bushels.

Within the past decade or so New York has assumed first place among the apple-producing states, its output now amounting to 24,111,257 bushels; Pennsylvania is second on a total output of 24,060,651 bushels, Ohio third with 20,617,480 bushels, Virginia fourth with 9,835,982 bushels, and Illinois fifth with 9,178,150 bushels. California is fifteenth in the list with 3,488,208 bushels. Ten years ago Ohio stood first among the apple-producing states, Michigan second and Kentucky third. In the last decade, however, there has been heavy tree planting in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. The increase in the several states and territories in ten years was 81,641,000 trees. In the like decade the apple crop increased to 82 per cent. of all orchard fruits.

In value of orchard products California leads all other states (14,526,786 dols.), New York standing second, Pennsylvania third, Ohio fourth, Illinois fifth and Michigan sixth. These six states, with Indiana, Missouri, Virginia and New Jersey, raise 69 per cent. of the orchard fruit in the United States, measured by value. Michigan stands first in peaches and California first in plums, prunes, pears, grapes, oranges and lemons. Of all the orchard trees in the United States, 55 per cent. are apple trees.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 2nd April was 74,172 and the number imported during the 14 weeks ended the 2nd April was 1,514,615.

As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 2nd April, 9,470 bales, and for the 14 weeks, 136,050.

For further details see p. 89.

A return showing the number of bales of cotton imported and exported, forwarded from ports to Inland towns, and returned to ports during the month and three months ended 31st March last, will be found on p. 88.

The number of emigrants that left the United Kingdom during the month of March, 1903, was 38,132, as compared with 28,569 during the corresponding month of 1902. During the three months ended March, 1903, 78,697 emigrants left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe as compared with 56,286 during the same period of 1902.

For further details see p. 91.

AUSTRALIA.

The following table, showing the value of the principal articles exported from Western Australia in 1902, as compared with the two preceding years, is taken from the Statistical Abstract of Western Australia for January last :—

	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£
Raw gold	3,799,116	3,941,797	3,318,958
Wool	270,718	375,135	458,078
Timber	468,461	572,354	500,533
Hides and skins	74,902	86,559	111,456
Pearls and shell	106,607	130,730	178,699
Sandalwood	39,088	73,931	61,771
Copper	33,937	110,769	12,904
Tin	57,050	52,102	39,498
All other articles	261,462	361,495	319,592
Total	5,101,291	5,707,782	4,901,489
Gold specie*	1,760,768	2,807,841	4,149,869
Grand total exports...	£ 6,862,054	8,515,623	9,051,358

* Includes exports of local gold coined at Perth Mint.

NOTE.—The figures for 1902 are provisional, and are liable to rectification.

*Miscellaneous.***CAPE COLONY.**

The following table, showing the value of the merchandise entered for removal from Cape Colony under rebate, and otherwise to the Transvaal and Rhodesia during the year 1902 as compared with the preceding year, is based on statistics published in the "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 13th March last:—

To—							1901.	1902.
							£	£
Transvaal	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,162,162	4,811,220
Rhodesia	...	...	...	...	...	...	842,963	674,275

MAURITIUS.

The following statement, showing the value of goods imported into and exported from Mauritius during the year ended 31st December, 1902, has been received at the Board of Trade from the Collector of Customs at Port Louis:—

Imports.

From—	Value of Imports exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total Imports.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	49,89,107	32,35,144	82,24,251
British Possessions ...	1,37,08,783	32,14,223	1,69,23,006
Foreign countries ...	32,20,004	23,71,497	55,91,501
Grand total ...	*2,19,17,894	88,20,864	3,07,38,758

Exports.

To—	Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Shipping Charges on Colonial Produce.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Total Exports.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	41,19,413	2,51,498	2,45,940	46,16,851
British Possessions ...	2,64,15,653	18,61,334	47,99,428	3,30,76,415
Foreign countries ...	4,02,994	25,216	2,20,220	6,48,430
Grand total ...	3,09,38,060	21,38,048	52,65,588	†3,83,41,696

* Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion imported, Rs. 1,484,738.

† " " " " exported, Rs. 4,403,360.

*Miscellaneous.***JAMAICA.**

The following table, compiled from quarterly statements published in the "Jamaica Gazette," shows the value of the exports of the principal produce of the island during the last two years :—

	1901.	1902.
	£	£
Bananas	692,398	1,059,222
Sugar	164,671	166,693
Logwood	92,622	164,117
" extract	29,486	24,602
Rum	142,285	140,598
Coffee	147,807	130,738
Oranges	92,311	97,106
Cocoa	59,603	83,489
Pimento	83,327	89,953
Cocanuts	61,454	62,363
Ginger	51,161	47,089
Other articles	110,398	113,378
Total exports £	1,726,908	2,179,343

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of an Act to regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States, which was approved on 3rd March last.

Previous Immigration Acts, other than those relating to Chinese, are repealed in so far as they are inconsistent with the present Act.

Provision is made for the payment of a duty of two dollars for every passenger not a citizen of the United States, or of the Dominion of Canada, and the Republics of Cuba or Mexico, who arrive by steam, sail, or other vessel from any foreign port to any port within the United States, or by any railway or any other mode of transportation from foreign contiguous territory to the United States.

The head-tax is not to be levied upon aliens in transit through the United States, nor upon aliens who have once been admitted into the United States, and have paid the head-tax, who later shall go in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory.

The following classes of aliens are excluded from admission into the United States :—

All idiots, insane persons, epileptics, and persons who have been insane within five years previous ;

Miscellaneous.

Persons who have had two or more attacks of insanity at any time previously ;

Paupers ;

Persons likely to become a public charge ;

Professional beggars ;

Persons afflicted with a loathsome, or with a dangerous contagious disease ;

Persons who have been convicted of a felony or other crime or misdemeanour involving moral turpitude ;

Polygamists, anarchists, or persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States, or of all Government, or of all forms of law, or the assassination of public officials ;

Prostitutes, and persons who procure or attempt to bring in prostitutes or women for the purpose of prostitution ;

Persons who have been, within one year from the date of the application for admission to the United States, deported as being under offers, solicitations, promises or agreements to perform labour or service of some kind therein ; and also

Any person whose ticket or passage is paid for with the money of another, or who is assisted by others to come, unless it is affirmatively and satisfactorily shown that such person does not belong to the foregoing excluded classes ; but this section does not prevent persons living in the United States from sending for a relative or friend who is not of the foregoing excluded classes.

It is also provided that this Act shall not exclude persons convicted of an offence purely political, not involving moral turpitude.

The provisions of the law applicable to contract labour are not held to exclude professional actors, artists, lecturers, singers, ministers of any religious denomination, professors for colleges or seminaries, persons belonging to any recognised learned profession, or persons employed strictly as personal or domestic servants.

The Act also provides that all aliens brought into the country in violation of the law shall immediately be sent back, except under special conditions, to the countries whence they came on the vessels bringing them.

The cost of their maintenance while on land, as well as the expense of their return, must be borne by the owners of the vessels on which they came.

A copy of the Act may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

REPORTS OF BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Leeds.—A meeting of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce was held on the 31st March, Alderman J. H. Wurtzburg presiding. A draft memorial was adopted in favour of the resolution on Parliamentary procedure, which was passed at the meeting of the Associated Chambers. Other matters considered were:—The Conference of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at Montreal next August; National Food Supply in time of War; the German Tariff, &c.

Huddersfield.—The Huddersfield Incorporated Chamber of Commerce decided at their monthly meeting on the 31st March against sending a collection of exhibits to the St. Louis Exhibition, as it was considered that trade would not be benefited owing to the high Customs tariff.

The Chamber decided to give their support to the action being taken in the following matters:—Food Supply in War Time; Facilities for Cheap Railway Travelling; County Court Jurisdiction Act, &c.

Blackburn.—At the quarterly meeting of the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce held on the 1st April, the question of renewing the attempt to obtain the abolition of the Indian import duties was considered and discussed. No resolution was made.

The Chamber decided to take no part in the St. Louis Exhibition, owing to the high Customs tariff.

Numerous subscriptions to the funds of the Cotton Growing Association were reported.

Other matters under discussion were: Commercial Education; Cheaper Return Tickets on the Railways; and Extension of County Court Jurisdiction.

Walsall.—The annual banquet of the Walsall and district Chamber of Commerce was held on Thursday, 2nd April. Mr. E. J. Shaw, J.P., a past President of the Chamber presided, and he was supported by the Marquis of Londonderry, who, in responding to the toast of "His Majesty's Ministers," dwelt upon the importance of commercial education, and justified the action of the Education Department. The noble Marquis congratulated Walsall on its prosperous condition.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.—March, 1903.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, and Returned to Ports during the Month and Three Months ended 31st March, 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1902.

	MONTH OF MARCH.		THREE MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1903.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
IMPORTS.				
American	348,728	280,716	1,044,186	1,154,287
Brazilian	22,973	26,862	65,820	76,126
East Indian	9,644	1,748	19,653	6,783
Egyptian	43,980	45,895	164,201	170,185
Miscellaneous	4,800	9,882	9,155	15,231
Total	429,625	362,103	1,308,015	1,422,612
EXPORTS.				
American	14,712	22,829	58,453	57,404
Brazilian	2,651	120	10,623	720
East Indian	3,539	1,958	7,511	4,161
Egyptian	12,754	11,457	46,415	42,856
Miscellaneous	443	545	2,387	1,147
Total	31,099	36,409	120,389	106,288
FORWARDED from PORTS to INLAND TOWNS.				
American	270,274	229,592	836,294	745,716
Brazilian	12,811	11,218	34,163	28,761
East Indian	3,502	1,698	10,835	3,383
Egyptian	27,877	22,647	102,453	96,141
Miscellaneous	5,464	5,595	16,082	22,082
Total	319,928	270,750	999,787	895,933
FORWARDED from INLAND TOWNS to PORTS.				
American	622	202	1,190	486
Brazilian	—	—	—	—
East Indian	—	—	—	—
Egyptian	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	7	6
Total	622	202	1,197	492

Cotton Returns—continued.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 14 Weeks ended 2nd April, 1903.

	Week ended 2nd April, 1903.	14 Weeks ended 2nd April, 1903.	Week ended 2nd April, 1903.	14 weeks ended 2nd April, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	66,023	1,231,406	4,608	63,450
Brazilian	—	65,820	215	10,848
East Indian	832	20,608	1,350	9,000
Egyptian	6,191	185,428	3,184	50,250
Miscellaneous	1,126	11,353	213	2,502
Total	74,172	1,514,615	9,470	136,050

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 4th April, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

						Average Price.					
						Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
						s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 4th April, 1903						25	3	22	6	17	0
Corresponding week in—											
1896						24	6	21	0	13	1
1897						27	8	23	7	16	6
1898						35	2	27	0	17	11
1899						24	7	25	1	16	11
1900						25	10	24	10	17	2
1901						26	3	25	3	18	0
1902						27	3	26	5	20	6

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 4th April, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 4th Apr., 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	10,188	5,976
Sheep and lambs	"	8,784	6,398
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	692	416
Fresh meat :—			
Beef... ..	Cwts.	78,600	45,668
Mutton	"	108,545	46,874
Pork	"	14,867	11,581
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	98,772	128,740
Beef	"	4,269	3,984
Hams	"	28,808	84,427
Pork	"	8,549	8,998
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	17,885	14,234
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	18,141	17,670
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	62,876	61,365
Margarine	"	16,619	15,048
Cheese	"	80,212	22,224
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	188	144
" cream	"	86	45
" condensed	"	19,854	18,252
" preserved, other kinds	"	885	19
Eggs	Grt. Hndr.	341,867	268,892
Poultry and game	Value £	26,225	22,808
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	11,419	2,776
Lard	"	44,321	66,924
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,638,166	1,947,609
Wheat-meal and flour	"	272,866	295,100
Barley	"	868,484	813,500
Oats	"	228,866	271,400
Pears	"	22,547	82,800
Beans	"	25,379	80,800
Maise or Indian corn	"	1,008,365	792,100
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	58,474	19,798
Apricots and peaches	"	18	18
Bananas	Bunches.	50,478	52,788
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	519	497
Lemons	"	15,525	28,652
Oranges	"	201,718	174,659
Pears	"	218	88
Plums	"	22	12
Strawberries	"	—	2
Unenumerated	"	23	1,519
Hay	Tons.	4,907	8,637
Straw	"	758	1,085
Hops	Cwts.	619	554
Locust beans... ..	"	21,619	17,495
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	84,707	156,748
Potatoes	Cwts.	70,784	46,600
Tomatoes	"	21,021	6,940
Unenumerated	Value £	9,197	15,249
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	12,650	2,202
Preserved by canning	"	8,686	2,027

Emigration.—March, 1903.

Return of the Numbers, Nationalities, and *Destinations of the Passengers that left the United Kingdom for Places out of Europe during the Month ended 31st March, 1903, and the Three Months ended 31st March, 1903, compared with the corresponding periods of the previous Year.

Nationality.	BRITISH EMPIRE.						FOREIGN COUNTRIES.			Grand Total.	
	British North America.	Australia and New Zealand.	British South Africa.	India.	Other British Colonies and Possessions.	Total.	United States.	Other Foreign Countries.	Total.		
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1902.
Month ended 31st March, 1903.											
English	7,448	506	2,814	183	128	11,141	3,643	243	3,966	15,127	9,066
Scotch	1,240	97	501	8	39	1,885	876	46	922	2,807	1,336
Irish	230	51	96	...	...	386	1,350	9	1,359	2,245	2,234
Total of British origin ...	8,917	656	3,411	191	227	13,412	6,369	398	6,767	20,179	13,338
Foreigners	3,936	16	675	2	18	4,647	12,638	105	12,743	17,390	14,890
Nationalities not distinguished	1	...	...	55	211	267	75	221	296	563	441
Total	12,864	672	4,086	248	456	18,326	19,082	724	19,806	38,133	28,569
Total for corresponding month, 1902	5,294	790	3,417	251	403	10,220	17,685	714	18,349	28,569	
Three Months ended 31st March, 1903.											
English	9,963	2,035	9,874	930	978	23,780	8,965	1,203	10,168	33,948	21,960
Scotch	1,466	360	1,400	46	125	3,397	1,835	166	2,001	5,396	2,674
Irish	451	148	342	6	19	968	3,186	24	3,230	4,186	2,782
Total of British origin ...	11,880	2,543	11,616	982	1,122	26,145	13,986	1,403	15,389	43,532	29,416
Foreigners	8,034	49	2,948	8	64	11,103	22,023	316	22,339	33,442	25,545
Nationalities not distinguished	15	...	...	300	623	938	148	637	785	1,723	1,305
Total	19,929	2,592	14,564	1,290	1,809	40,184	36,157	2,356	38,513	78,697	56,266
Total for corresponding months, 1902	8,820	3,142	7,194	1,034	1,889	23,079	31,977	2,230	34,207	56,266	

* The destinations given are, in all cases, based on the ports at which the passengers contracted to land.

NOTE.—The above figures being made up at the earliest possible date after the close of each month, are subject to correction in the Annual Returns.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of March, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1901, in two Volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 7d. for the first, and 4s. 10d. for the second Volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and, in the second volume, details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 17th March:—State of the Labour Market in February; Fatal Accidents to Workpeople in 1902; Agricultural Holdings in Scotland from August to December, 1902; The Price of Bread, Wheat and Flour; Recent Progress in Co-operation; Recent Cases under the Conciliation Act; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the Annual Series issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,947. Thessaly (Trade and Agriculture), 1902.

British shipping increased but brought greater proportion of foreign goods.

Demand for agricultural implements and machines and manufactured articles generally.

Number of British vessels entering and clearing Volo during each of the last 14 years with quantity and value of import and export cargoes.

Number of German vessels entering and clearing Volo during the past five years showing value of import and export cargoes together with description of articles exported.

Number and distribution of agricultural population of Thessaly, with returns of seed sown, area under cultivation, animals and implements em-

Government Publications.

ployed, and comparative tables of crops produced.

Comparative tables of prin-

No. 2,948. Somaliland Protectorate, 1901-02.

Analysis of import and export movement. Decrease in Zaila trade due to competition with Jibouti. Better prospects with Berbera and Bulhar owing to revival of interchange with the Ogaden.

Reports on Zaila by the Acting-Consul, and on Berbera and Bulhar by the Chief of Customs.

Statements for 1900-1 and 1901-2 of the quantity and

No. 2949. Brest and District, 1902.

Import, export and shipping trade of Brest, Morlaix, Le Légué and Lorient, showing share of principal countries.

New harbour works, lights, lighthouses and beacons.

Railway and tramway progress.

New cable to West Coast of Africa.

cial imports and exports of the district of Magnesia during 1901-2.

value of imports and exports, including live-stock, at Zaila and Berbera, showing ports of origin and destination of principal commodities.

Freight rates to and from Aden.

Rates of duty, and charges for landing and shipping cargo at Zaila.

Returns of shipping at Zaila and Berbera.

Proposed fast passenger service between Brest and New York.

Projected British line of cargo steamers.

State of crops.

Falling-off in the fishing industry.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Mines and Quarries. General Report and Statistics for 1901. Part IV. Colonial and Foreign Statistics. [Cd. 1,506.] Price 1s. 7d.

This return, which is compiled annually in the Home Office, contains statistics and general information in regard to the mineral output of various foreign countries and British possessions, the figures given being brought down in most cases to the year 1901. It appears from the statistics contained in the report that the number of persons engaged in mining and quarrying at home and abroad exceeds 4,500,000, of whom, roughly speaking, one-fifth are employed in the United Kingdom and one-third in the British Empire. The total amount of coal produced in the world amounted in 1901 to 789,000,000 metric tons, of which the United States yielded rather more than one-third and the British Empire rather less than that proportion. The quantity of iron produced in 1901 amounted to over 39,000,000 metric tons, to which total the United States contributed 16,000,000 metric tons, the British Empire 4,800,000, and Germany about 4,361,000 tons.

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the Annual and Miscellaneous Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—				
	Denmark:		2948	Somaliland Protectorate 1901-02	2½d.
2934	Denmark (Supplementary) 1901	1d.	588	<i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda</i>	½d.
	France:			AMERICA, NORTH—	
2949	Brest 1902	1½d.		United States of America:	
2941	French Guinea ... 1901	½d.	2942	New Orleans 1902	2½d.
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	½d.	2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky 1902	1½d.
	Germany:		587	<i>Coal Industry of the United States in 1901</i>	2d.
2945	Estimates of the German Empire 1903	1d.		Mexico:	
	Greece		2925	Mexico 1901	2½d.
2947	Thessaly 1902	1½d.		AMERICA, SOUTH—	
	Italy:			Argentina:	
2930	Finances of Italy ... 1902	1½d.	2940	Argentine finances 1901-02	1½d.
2933	Italy 1901	3d.		Brazil:	
2936	Naples 1902	1½d.	2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	½d.
2935	Venice 1901-02	1½d.	2928	Rio de Janeiro ... 1901	1½d.
	Russia:			Chile:	
2943	Odessa (Supplementary) 1901	1½d.	2946	Coquimbo 1901	½d.
	Spain:			WEST INDIES—	
2924	Bilbao 1901	2½d.	2927	Hayti 1901	1d.
	Turkey:			ASIA—	
2932	Crete 1901	1d.		Siam:	
2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899-1901	2d.	2929	Chiengmai 1901	1d.
	AFRICA—			PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1d.	2937	Samoa 1902	1d.

*Government Publications.***Treaty Series.**

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.	_____	Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries... ..	1d.
	France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1d.
	ASIA—	
	Corea :	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	1d.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C. :—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½d.
378	British Guiana	2½d.
379	Mauritius	8½d.
380	Basutoland	3d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2½d.
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½d.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.

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THE

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APRIL 16, 1903.

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THE

Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. XLI.]

April 16, 1903.

[No. 333.]

In a notice on p. 144 will be found a revised statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade having special regard to the recent transfer to the Board of Trade of the Imperial Institute. The main office of the Branch is at present at No. 50, Parliament Street, S.W., with a temporary enquiry office at 49, Eastcheap, E.C., the City Branch of the Imperial Institute.

Attention is directed to the fact that trade representatives of India, and of certain Colonies which are named below, can be consulted at the City Branch on matters relative to the trade of the respective countries.

A Representative for India attends on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

A Representative for the Dominion of Canada attends daily by appointment.

A Representative for Queensland attends daily from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Commercial Agency for New South Wales is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on pp. 139-40.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE. UNITED KINGDOM.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: ADMIRALTY.

Tenders will be received until 12 o'clock noon on Monday, the 27th April, for hard soap and soft soap.

Tenders for
Soap.

Samples must be sent to the Admiralty
Pattern Rooms not later than Tuesday, 21st

April.

Manufacturers only will be accepted.

Openings for British Trade.

Pattern case for hard soap may be seen, and small samples of soap obtained on application at the Admiralty Pattern Rooms, 72, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.

Forms of tender, containing conditions of contract and all particulars, may be obtained on personal application at the Contract Department, Admiralty, or by letter addressed "Director of Navy Contracts, Admiralty, London, S.W."

CANADA.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade. **Offices, Victoria Street, S.W.**, where further information may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A Manchester firm wish to get into direct communication with large Canadian exporters of poultry to Great Britain, especially turkeys, for the winter market.

An enquiry has been received for addresses in Canada of slate quarry owners in a position to export slate to Great Britain.

A firm of biscuit makers ask to be referred to one or two responsible wholesale houses in Canada who could deal in their goods.

A London firm has asked to be furnished with names of Canadian producers of food-stuffs, canned as well as dry, including wheat, flour, and products thereof.

Canadian Enquiries.—A Canadian exporter of cider-vinegar is desirous of being placed in communication with importers prepared to purchase car lots of at least 60 barrels.

An agent at Ottawa offering good references desires to obtain the representation of an English firm exporting sulphur to Canada for wood-pulp mills and other users.

A Canadian shipper of copper-amalgam desires to hear of firms in South Africa and Australia who deal in dental supplies.

Colonial Enquiry.—A Sydney (New South Wales) agency is looking out for Canadian exporters of cured bacon and hams, canned fish, fruits, &c., who desire representation in Australia.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

The "Government Gazette" of the Orange River Colony of 13th March contains a notice calling for tenders for **Tenders for Clothing.** the supply of clothing for prisoners and prison staff at the various prisons or bridewells throughout the Orange River Colony.

All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the

Openings for British Trade.

Chairman of the Tender Board, Audit Office, Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony.

Tenders should be marked "Tender for Prison Clothing" in the left hand top corner of the envelope, and reach the Auditor-General's Office not later than 10 a.m. on the 30th May, 1903.

All details regarding the articles to be supplied (or work to be performed) can be obtained from the office of the Director of Prisons, Bloemfontein.

Before the acceptance of any tender, the tenderer may be required to deposit samples with the Tender Board.

The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

EGYPT.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of 1st April announces that the Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply of about 18,000 mitkals of silver thread (98 per cent. pure silver) of which 15,000 gilt, required for the making of the Holy carpet.

All persons wishing to tender for the supply of this silver thread should address themselves to the "Direction du Secrétariat" of the Finance Ministry, Cairo, in order to learn the conditions of the auction and examine samples of the silver thread.

Tenders, which must be written on stamped paper of 30 millièmes, will be received up to 12 midday on Saturday, 16th May, 1903.

Any tender received after the above date and hour will not be taken into consideration.

The Ministry of Finance reserves to itself the right to accept or refuse any tender.

NORWAY.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, a despatch reporting that tenders in sealed envelopes marked "Kraner," will be received at the office of the Head Engineer, Tangerand and Aal Railway, Vossevangen, up to the 30th April, for the supply of one 3-ton swing crane on trolley, 3.2 metres swing radius, and 3.2 metres raising capacity above rails—rail gauge 1.435 metres; and three 1-ton swing cranes on trolleys, 5 metres swing radius, and 5 metres raising capacity above rails—rail gauge 1.435 metres.

The cranes are to be delivered with accessories of about $\frac{1}{2}$ lock tested chain and snatch blocks for double chain c.i.f. Bergen within one month of receipt of intimation of delivery (*sic*).

Further conditions for delivery can be obtained on application at the Head Engineer's Office, Vossevangen.

Openings for British Trade.

Tenders are to hold good for 30 days after the expiry of date of period for tendering.

Apart from the usual Customs duties, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

BELGIUM.

The "Bulletin Commercial" of 11th April contains an announcement to the effect that tenders will be opened on the 29th April, by the "Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux," at No. 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels, for the construction of the line from Dinant to Florennes.

**Tenders for
Railway
Construction.**

The upset price of the work is 329,516 francs (13,180*l.*), and a deposit of 33,000 francs (1,320*l.*) is required. Tenders by registered letter must be addressed to the Director-General of the Company at the address given above, where they will be received not later than 28th April. Plans, estimates, and conditions of contract may be seen at the Company's office and at the office of M. d'Artevelle, Rue de Turquie No. 18, à Saint Gilles, Bellefroid, Grand' Rue, 140, à Jambes (Bruxelles).

A statement of the conditions of contract may be obtained at the offices named on payment of 1 franc.

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 8th April contains a Royal Order, granting a concession to the Bilbao-Santander Pier Construction. Railway Company, to run concurrently with their railway concession, for the extension by 30 metres of their pier for shipping ore at the port of Santander.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 10th April contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened in the office of the Port Works at Santander, at noon on the 20th April, for the supply of 3,000 tons of coal for the dredging service of the port, at the upset price of 106,950 pesetas, or about 3,146*l.* A provisional deposit of 1,070 pesetas, or about 31*l.*, is required to qualify any tender.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 12th April contains a notice stating that an application has been made by the Sociedad anonima Iberia Concesionaria, accompanied by a plan and the legal guarantee, for the concession for an electric tramway from Porriño to Vigo. One month is allowed in which other proposals, on more favourable terms, for the concession indicated may be

**Concession for
Electric
Tramway.**

Openings for British Trade.

presented, accompanied by their corresponding plans and guarantees.

The "Gacetas" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

GREECE.

On p. 102 will be found an extract from a report by H.M. Consul at Volo, calling attention to the constant and increasing demand in Thessaly for agricultural implements and machines, and other descriptions of manufactured articles.

**Agricultural
Machinery and
Implements.**

MEXICO.

The "Diario Oficial" of Mexico of 21st March contains copy of a concession granted for 99 years to the Cananea, Rio Yaqui and Pacific Railway Company to construct and work a narrow gauge line in the State of Sonora, from Naco, on the United States of America frontier, to San Marcial, passing by the Cananea Mine, with the right to prolong the line in the one direction to the Gulf of California, in the neighbourhood of the mouth of the Rio Yaqui, and in the other to Agiabampo and Topolobampo, by the city of Alamos, and to construct three branches from points on the main line which may be approved by the Office of Communications and Public Works—one to Nacozari, another to Zahuaripa, and the third to a point on the railway line of Sonora. Notification has to be given by the concessionaires of their intention to avail of the right to prolong the line to the Gulf by 11th November, 1905, of the right to prolong it to Agiabampo and Topolobampo by 11th November, 1906, and of the right to build the branches named by 11th November, 1907.

The "Diario" containing the above notice may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

ARGENTINA.

On p. 125 will be found a notice respecting the development of the butter industry and the manufacture of casein in Argentina, together with a reference to some samples of casein forwarded by H.M. Consul at Buenos Aires, which may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

**Supply of Casein
—Samples on
View.**

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Thessaly.—In a report recently received at the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 2,947), H.M. Consul at Volo states that the goods in constant and increasing demand in Thessaly comprise agricultural implements and machines, and other descriptions of manufactured articles. The latter are mostly of a low grade quality, the price being generally the chief factor. It can still be said, however, that goods of British manufacture are almost invariably accorded the preference where high quality and efficiency are the principal considerations, but as no British commission agents or traders are resident in the district to watch for opportunities of securing orders or to push British trade, it is hardly surprising that, under such conditions, British products are not altogether holding their own against cheaper foreign wares. On the other hand, it is obviously useless to expect competent British commercial representatives to establish themselves in localities where the probable profit and general conditions of life are not such as to appeal to their self-interest.

Somaliland Protectorate.—In a recent report, Mr. H. M. O'Byrne, Chief of Customs at Berbera and Bulhar, after expatiating on the trade monopoly held by agents of Indian merchants at Aden, and their high prices which tend to check trade, states that until the monopoly is broken by a European firm entering into a legitimate business in the principal commodities, for which the Somalis barter their merchandise, Berbera cannot compete with Aden and make the other ports in the Protectorate its dependencies. The firm should, preferably, be one engaged in the skin and hide trade. The existing conditions tend to separate the ports, but did they all converge to one centre, the accumulated trade brought to Berbera would, in time, convince the merchants that cargo shipped from that port and transhipped at Aden could be more economically despatched direct from the exporting port to its destination.

When free competition is established, the Chief of Customs considers it would then be advantageous to reduce the import duty on cereals. The prospect might be an inducement to a merchant or firm who could effect this end, but the reduction, of course, would be a general concession. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,948.)

THE CANADIAN FURNITURE INDUSTRY.

In its issue for March, "Industrial Canada," the organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, contains an account of the development of the furniture industry in Canada, from which the following extracts have been made:—

Probably the first of the great Canadian factory industries to be established was the manufacture of furniture, more than 100 years having elapsed since a company began the manufacture of furniture in the city of Quebec.

Of all the factory industries of Canada the manufacture of furniture might reasonably be regarded as the most indigenous to the country. Canada's forests of both pine and hardwoods have always been counted as one of the most valuable and inexhaustible of its great natural resources. The fact that the large majority of Canadian furniture factories are situated in the western peninsula of the Province of Ontario and more particularly in the towns and cities along what is known as the hardwood ridge which extends throughout that peninsula, indicates that in the earlier days of the industry the supplies of raw materials used in the factories were drawn from the hardwood forests in that part of the province. That was the case for many years after the starting of the first of these factories, and when the cheaper grades of furniture were more largely made from our native birch, beech, maple, elm and other hardwoods. At that time also there was a fairly large supply of suitable oak timber to be had in Canada for the manufacture of the better grades of furniture. In later years, however, a great change has come over the furniture manufacturing industry. With the steady increase in the use of labour-saving wood-working machinery and the consequent reduction in the price of the better grades of furniture, the demand for the cheaper grades made from native Canadian hardwoods has greatly fallen off. People who a few years ago were satisfied with goods made from maple, beech or elm, stained to resemble oak and other more expensive woods now demand a better class of article, either what is known as natural oak, oak veneer or quartered oak, of which material there is a very limited supply in Canada. The result of this increasing demand for a better class of goods has compelled the furniture manufacturers to look abroad for much of the raw material used in the manufacture of what is now sold in place of the former cheaper class of furniture. The raw material for the more expensive grades made of mahogany, baywood, rosewood, and walnut has all been obtained in foreign markets.

The result of this evolution in the furniture industry, the cheapening of the cost of production, and the consequent demand of the public for a better class of article, has compelled Canadian furniture manufacturers to purchase a very large proportion of their stock of oak lumber from the United States, where the supply of suitable material is very much larger. The fact that there is not in Canada a single factory in which oak veneer is turned out,

The Canadian Furniture Industry.

and that the entire Canadian supply comes from the United States, shows the dearth of raw material for the better class of goods in a country which for generations has been largely exporting the products of its virgin forests to supply the needs of foreign lands.

Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to suppose that most of the wood used in Canadian furniture factories is imported.

Despite the fact that so large a proportion of the raw material used in the manufacture of the better grades of furniture has to be imported, the furniture industry is one of the strongest as well as one of the most extensive in the Dominion.

In the higher grades of expensive furniture, Canadian factories do not have to take second place to any on the American continent in quality, price, or style. Some of the fine work turned out by the Western Ontario factories would astonish those who imagine that only the cheaper grades are made in the country. Not only are the Canadian furniture factories to-day supplying the home market with grades, qualities and styles to suit the popular taste, but a large and profitable export trade is being worked up with Great Britain, Australia, the West Indies and South Africa. Some of the larger factories have agents in all these countries studying the demands of the trade there, and by offering a better article for less money made to order to suit the public taste and requirements, are establishing an export trade which is bound to become one of the largest and most important in the Dominion.

A branch of the industry that should not be overlooked is that of rattan and reed furniture. The process of manufacture is very interesting. The rattan is imported from China. The outer bark or shell is of a smooth glossy appearance. This is stripped from the inner part, which is called the reed, by means of a very finely constructed machine, usually in three grades, fine, medium and coarse. The bark is called cane, and is the material used for seating the well-known cane seat chair. After the bark is removed the reeds are placed in large vats filled with a chloride solution and bleached. They are then ready for manufacture into chairs, couches and other articles of fancy furniture. Rattan is also extensively used in Canada in making baby carriages.

PRODUCTION OF LANDOLPHIA RUBBER IN UGANDA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a memorandum on Landolphia rubber and its production in Uganda, by Mr. John Mahon, Assistant in the Scientific and Agricultural Department of the Uganda Administration.

This memorandum states that one of the best rubbers in commerce is that obtained from species of Landolphia. As far back as 1876 the export of this rubber reached the value of 90,000*l.* from a district in East Africa (Mungao). All the evidence goes to show that Landolphias of at least four species are abundant in the forests of the Uganda Protectorate. In South Central Africa, where Landolphia rubber is worked to a considerable extent, practically no preparations beyond the crude native methods are employed, and the product has readily brought from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per lb. in the London market. But it is quite clear, owing to the peculiar climatic conditions obtaining in Uganda, and a consequently marked effect on the growth and physiological character of vegetation, that to produce a good quality rubber some trouble must be taken in curing. The native's method of exposing a thin layer of rubber latex to atmospheric action by spreading it on his arms and chest is not a good or suitable one. It has been proved by specimens sent home for report by the Scientific and Agricultural Department that exporting such an article is a mistake, for, although one may obtain by this method what appears to be a most suitable looking specimen, yet it is to be remembered that the journey home and differences of climate will tell against the crudely-prepared product. Besides, the means of preparing a better article are so simple that there can be no question of the advisability of adopting them.

An even more important matter than curing must receive the undivided attention of the employer of native rubber collectors. It is this:—In most of the lake shore forests, growing side by side with the Landolphias, is found a huge, rank climber with small, dark green leaves in pairs, and frequently bearing trusses of pretty, star-shaped yellowish flowers with a dark-coloured eye. The fruits when ripe are like a piece of slender, dead branch, and are closely packed with thin seeds, carrying each a silky plume, which, like thistle-down, conveys the seed long distances. It is a species of *Alafia*. In the stems, branches, and leaves, watery latex abounds. On coagulation this latex proves to have no elasticity whatever, the product is not unlike a piece of damp asbestos; even mixed with Landolphia latex in the proportion Landolphia two, *Alafia* one, it practically destroys the elasticity of the Landolphia. It is well known the native frequently taps this climber, and in Mr. Mahon's opinion it is mainly responsible for the low value and bad condition of rubber which has hitherto been prepared in Uganda.

There is an extensive demand for good rubber. Landolphia rubber is good. Unfortunately it is one of those native products which do not lend themselves to systematic cultivation. Therefore,

Production of Landolphia Rubber in Uganda.

the duration of its existence as a commercial product will be determined by the degree of energy with which the native products of Central Africa are exploited in the future. There are several fine rubber-yielding trees, plantations of which will, one trusts, be returning handsome profits to settlers in Central Tropical Africa long before the last Landolphia vine is tapped. Of these Hevea, the source of Para rubber, the standard by which all rubbers are judged, Castilloa (Central American rubber) and Funtumia (Lagos silk rubber) are thriving most favourably in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, and it is proposed to experiment with these, and other reputable tree-rubbers, on a fairly considerable scale in order that planters may be informed and advised in the future what sorts to work with and what to avoid. It is always possible, too, that in the western portion of the Protectorate a rubber-yielding tree may one day be found; it is feasible to assume the Lagos silk-rubber tree may have spread beyond the Congo towards Uganda, for science knows comparatively little of the botanical wealth of that fine region. Meantime, it is known that the Uganda Protectorate is rich in Landolphia, and its produce is capable of being a source of much commercial enterprise for many years to come. It only requires to be treated in a common-sense fashion by the men working it. To people of business instinct there is no need to dwell at length on the folly of killing by negligence an industry which, with ordinary care, can be the means of affording a substantial return on the capital invested in it for a considerable time.

LIMES IN THE WEST INDIES.

The following account of the cultivation of limes in the West Indies, and of the trade and industries connected therewith, is taken from the "Agricultural News" (Barbados) of the 14th March.

The lime industry of the West Indies, although comparatively small as compared with sugar and cacao, is yet of considerable importance at Dominica and Montserrat, supplying at the former more than half the total exports of the island.

Dominica.—At Dominica, lime juice alone (raw and concentrated) to the value of 32,212*l.*, and lime or essential oil to the value of 2,952*l.* were exported during the year 1901-02. These figures do not include the exports of green and pickled limes, in which a considerable trade is carried on with the United States of America and Canada. The steady increase in this trade may be gathered from the following statistics which indicate the exports referred to for the years 1898-1901. The value of green limes in the United States varies from 5·00 *dols.* to 10·00 *dols.* per barrel according to season and the demand:—

Limes in the West Indies.

Year.						United States, green limes (barrels, cases, &c.).	British North America, pickled limes (barrels).
1898	...	...	...	...	...	3,534	—
1899	...	...	...	...	...	6,743	—
1900	...	...	...	...	...	6,683	428
1901	...	...	...	...	...	7,412	904

With regard to the yield per acre, the Agricultural Instructor writes from Dominica that it varies according to the quality of the soil. On good soils 200 barrels of limes per acre are often obtained, while on poor lands the yield sometimes falls as low as 50 barrels per acre. The average yield is, however, about 120 barrels per acre. From a barrel of limes seven to eight gallons of juice are obtained. The juice is either shipped raw or in a concentrated form. The latter is boiled down to a density of ten or twelve to one, that is, 10 gallons of raw juice to one of concentrated. It takes on an average 80 barrels of limes to give 1 hogshead (54 gallons) of concentrated juice. The value of raw lime juice in the London market at present (14th March) is about 10d. per gallon, and of concentrated juice about 11l. 10s. per pipe.

The production of "essential oil of limes" forms an important branch of the industry. The oil is obtained from the rind of the ripe fruit and is exported either as "hand-pressed or rind oil," or as "distilled oil." In the preparation of the former, the oil is extracted by the "ecuelle" process before passing the fruit through the mill. Distilled oil is recovered from the juice, after milling, by the ordinary process of distillation.

The yield of "rind or hand-pressed oil" averages about 3 oz. per barrel of fresh limes, and is worth in London at present prices about 4s. per lb. Distilled oil is produced at the rate of about 2½ gallons for each hogshead of concentrated juice, and is worth in London about 1s. 9d. per lb.

Montserrat.—At Montserrat lime cultivation has formed for many years one of the chief agricultural industries. In 1898 and 1899 the export of lime juice averaged over 5,000l. per annum. Towards the latter end of 1899 the island was devastated by a severe hurricane, and the effect of this on the lime industry was seen by the reduction of the export of lime juice in 1900 to less than 400l. Energetic efforts are being made to re-establish the industry, and in 1901 the exports of lime juice had increased to over 1,100l.

The yield of limes in Montserrat, when the trees are in full bearing, is at the rate of about 160 barrels per acre. The yield of juice is calculated at about eight gallons for each barrel of limes. Concentrated juice is boiled down to a density of seven or eight to one, that is, seven gallons of raw juice to 1 gallon of concentrated. About two ounces of "ecuelle (rind) oil" are obtained from a

Limes in the West Indies.

barrel of limes, and about 50 ounces of distilled oil from a puncheon of concentrated juice.

Jamaica, Trinidad and Antigua.—At Jamaica, Trinidad and Antigua the cultivation of limes is carried on to a limited extent; the value of lime juice exported from these islands during the year 1900 being 7,496*l.*, 396*l.* and 195*l.* respectively. In the other islands the lime tree, although well known and found in nearly every garden, is grown to meet local requirements only.

TRADE OF EGYPT IN 1902.

In a report by H.M. Agent and Consul-General on the Finances, Administration and Condition of Egypt and the Soudan [Egypt No. 1 1903, Cd. 1529, price 10*d.*] it is stated that the value of the imports in 1902 was £E.14,211,000, or £E.438,000 less than in 1901, whilst the value of the exports was £E.17,617,000, or £E.1,887,000 more than in 1901. The report remarks that this is the first time since 1895 that a decline in the value of the imports has taken place, and goes on to examine carefully into the causes.

Lord Cromer says that the two main causes are unquestionably the low prices which have prevailed in foreign markets throughout the year for certain important articles, and a large decrease in the importation of cereals and flour, owing to a good Egyptian crop. In fact, if the latter item be omitted from the calculation, and the prices of 1901 be applied to the quantities imported in 1902, the result is in favour of the latter year.

On the other hand, it must be remembered that imports were unusually active during the last month of 1901. To some extent, a reaction, due to the overstocking of certain articles, was felt in 1902. Moreover, the completion of the Assouan Reservoir, and other works of public utility, has naturally affected the quantities of material brought into the country. Imports for the State Railways, also, were less in 1902 than during the previous year.

In addition to the foregoing reasons, the cholera epidemic, while it lasted, caused a general depression in trade, and credit with the interior was temporarily suspended.

When trade had resumed its normal course, it was already late in the year. Again, the whole of the month of Ramadan, during which trade operations are always more or less inactive, happened to fall in December; and, finally, in consequence of the strike at Marseilles, the arrivals of large quantities of goods were delayed.

Notwithstanding these circumstances, and the further fact that there was one working-day less than usual, owing to the Bairam holiday, the value of imports during the month of December was over £E.80,000 in excess of the corresponding month of 1891.

Lord Cromer proceeds to indicate some of the most important variations in imports in 1902 compared with the previous year as to which reference should be made to the report itself.

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

SWEDEN.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the undermentioned changes in the Customs Tariff of Sweden are in contemplation and that they will probably come into force on the 1st January, 1904 :—

Articles.	Tariff Rates of Duty.	English Equivalents.
<i>Copper and alloys of the same with zinc, tin, or other common metals, such as brass, bronze, German silver, Britannia metal, &c.</i>	Kron. öre	£ s. d.
Sheet—		
Rolled	Kilog. 0 10	Cwt. 0 5 7½
Hammered, bent ("bockad"), curved ("kypad"), with turned-up edges, perforated or otherwise worked ...	10 % <i>ad val.</i>	10 % <i>ad val.</i>
Bars, rolled, drawn, or hammered—		
Of round or square section, not otherwise worked	Kilog. 0 10	Cwt. 0 5 7½
Shaped, of other than round or square section, not otherwise worked ...	" 0 35	" 0 19 9
Nails, over 25 mm. long, also bolts ...	" 0 35	" 0 19 9
Tubes, rolled, drawn, hammered, or cast—		
In straight lengths, not otherwise worked	" 0 15	" 0 8 6
Ornamented, cut, or otherwise worked	(Dutiable as "copper, worked, other kinds")	(Dutiable as "copper, worked, other kinds")

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

BRITISH INDIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the India Office, a copy of a Customs Circular (No. 6 of 1903) issued by the Finance and Commerce Department of the Government of India on the 13th February last, notifying that refunds will be made in respect of a portion of the *additional* duties charged on Austro-Hungarian sugar shipped to British India between the 1st August, 1901, and the 31st July, 1902, inclusive.

**Refunds of Duties
on Austro-
Hungarian
Sugar.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

The following is the text of the circular :—

“The Governor-in-Council is pleased to direct that refunds shall be made of the difference, as stated below, between (a) the rates of additional duty actually charged under Notification No. 523 S.R., dated the 1st February, 1901 (Customs Circular No. 3 of 1901), on the different kinds of Austro-Hungarian sugar imported into India which were shipped from Austria-Hungary or from ports of other countries, from the 1st August, 1901, to the 31st July, 1902, inclusive, and (b) the rates now ascertained to be chargeable thereon after making allowance for the maximum bounty paid by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

“Such refunds will be made to the importers concerned, that is to say, to the person by whom the duty was originally paid, on application to the Collector of Customs to whom the duty was paid, evidence that the sugar was exported from Austria-Hungary during the period mentioned above, and evidence regarding the rate and amount of duty paid being furnished to the satisfaction of the Collector.”

Kinds of Sugar.	(a) Rates of additional duty actually charged.	(b) Rates now ascertained to be chargeable.	Difference to be refunded.
	Per cwt. R. a. p.	Per cwt. R. a. p.	Per cwt. R. a. p.
Sugar under 99·3 per cent. and of at least 90 per cent. polarisation	1 0 3	0 11 3	0 5 0
Sugar of at least 99·3 per cent. polarisation	1 7 4	1 0 2	0 7 2

TRANSVAAL.

With reference to the notice published on p. 25 of the “Board of Trade Journal” for 2nd April, 1903, the Board have now received a copy of a Proclamation (No. 4 of 1903) issued on the 4th March last by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Transvaal, notifying that, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1 and 2 of the Customs Duty (Sugar) Suspension Ordinance No. 8 of 1903, the special and *ad valorem* duties on sugar the produce of British South Africa, imported into the Transvaal, are suspended from and after 15th March, 1903, subject to the production of the necessary evidence, and to the regulations referred to in section 2 of the said Ordinance.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

EGYPT.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 30th March contains the text of a Valuation Tariff* in use by the Egyptian Customs authorities for the purpose of assessing import duties on certain classes of paving stone. This Tariff, which was to come into operation on the 1st April, and to remain in force until 31st March, 1904, is as follows:—

Articles.	Valuation.†
Naples paving stone, volcanic, per piece (3 pieces measuring 1 square metre)	Tariff Piastres.‡
Trieste paving stone, per piece (2 pieces measuring 1 square metre)	9
Naples flag-stones for pavements, volcanic, per piece (4 pieces measuring 1 square metre)	16
Trieste flag-stones for pavements, per piece (2 pieces measuring 1 square metre)	5
Naples and Trieste curbstones for pavements, per linear metre	13
	12

Should the Customs discover that the measurement of the stones differs from the measurement given above by 10 per cent. or more, the regulation amount of duty will be levied on the difference.

No allowance will be made for broken or damaged pieces.

* For particulars as to the nature of these Egyptian Valuation Tariffs and as to the conditions under which they remain in force, see "Board of Trade Journal" for the 19th March, pp. 589-90.

† Duty is levied on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent.

‡ 100 tariff piastres = £E 1 = 1*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.*

FRANCE—REUNION.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copies of three French Presidential Decrees, dated the 23rd March, and published in the "Journal Officiel" for the 29th March, relative to the Customs régime of Réunion.

The first of these Decrees amends the list of exceptions to the General Customs Tariff of France applicable to imports into Réunion from foreign countries. The revised list will therefore read as follows:—

**Tariff
Modifications.**

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.*FRANCE—REUNION—*continued.*

No. in General Tariff.	Description of Article.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.
	<i>I.—Animals, living.</i>		
1	Horses	Each	Frs. Cts. 30 00
2	Mules	"	5 00
	<i>II.—Animal produce.</i>		
17	Salted meat other than pork	100 kilogs. gross wgt.	10 00
	<i>III.—Fishery produce.</i>		
46	Fish, salted or smoked, other than cod, stock-fish, herrings, mackerel, sardines, and anchovies ...	100 kilogs. gross wgt.	10 00
	<i>VI.—Alimentary farinaceous substances.</i>		
68	Corn—		
	In the form of grain	—	Free
	" " " flour	100 kilogs. gross wgt.	5 50
79	Rice, whole, rice flour and grits	"	1 00
80	Other grain	"	3 00
	<i>VIII.—Articles of Colonial produce.</i>		
109	Tobacco, in leaves or stalks—		
	For manufacturers	100 kilogs.	2 50
	For private individuals	Prohibited	
	Tobacco, manufactured—		
	Cigars—		
	For manufacturers	per 1,000	20 00
	For private individuals*	"	40 00
	Other—		
	For manufacturers	100 kilogs.	400 00
	For private individuals*	"	800 00
	<i>XI.—Wood.</i>		
128	Common wood—		
	Logs, rough, not squared, with or without the bark, of any length	cub. met.	2 50
	Woods, of various species, squared or sawn ...	"	2 50
	Beams, 8 cm. in thickness and 24 cm. in width ...	100 linear metres.	6 00
	(NOTE.—On larger sizes duty is levied in proportion.)		
	<i>XIV.—Various products and waste substances.</i>		
170	Hot-house and nursery plants and shrubs	—	Free
	<i>XVI.—Marble, stone, earths, combustible materials, minerals, &c.</i>		
197	Petroleum and schist oils, and other mineral oils for illuminating purposes	100 kilogs. gross wgt.	5 00
	<i>XVIII.—Chemical products.</i>		
252	Ammoniacal salts	—	Free
270	Nitrate of potash, transformed	—	Free

* The quantity to be imported by private individuals is limited to 10 kilogs., net weight, of cigars, and 5 kilogs., net weight, of other tobacco, per annum.

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.*FRANCE—REUNION—*continued.*

No. in General Tariff	Description of Article.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.
	XXV.—Tissues.		Fra. Cts.
398	Jute bags... ..	—	Free
	XXXIV.—Manufactures of various materials.		
648	Matches (chemical), wooden and others	Box of 70 matches or less.	0 04
	Wood prepared for matches	100 kilogs. gross wgt.	10 00

The second Decree establishes a statistical tax to be levied on all goods imported into or exported from the island of Réunion, in the following proportions:—

	Centimes.
On goods in casks, cases, bags, or other packing ... package	15
On cattle, horses, mules, asses, goats, swine, and dogs, whether living or slaughtered... .. each	15
On the following articles of export, viz., sugar, coffee, feculae, dried vegetables and potatoes 1,000 kilogs.	30
On goods in bulk, or without packing, or dutiable by gross weight 1,000 kilogs.	30

The following are the principal provisions of the third Decree, which provides for the imposition of sanitary dues on shipping, &c., in the island of Réunion:—

Art. 1.—The sanitary dues are—

A.—Inspection dues on arrival, namely:

1. Ships in the French coasting trade navigating from one sea to another ton 5 centimes
2. Ships in the international coasting trade... .. „ 10 „
3. Ships on long voyages „ 15 „
4. Ships running in a regular service from a European port to a port in the island „ 5 „
5. Ships coming from a foreign port to a port in the island, if the usual and total length of the journey does not exceed 12 hours „ 5 „

Ships belonging to the two last classes may make agreements for periods of six months or a year. The terms will be calculated

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

FRANCE—REUNION—*continued.*

on the basis of 50 centimes per ton per year whatever be the number of journeys.

6. Steamers calling along the coast of the island to take up or leave passengers

Coming from a French port—	
For passengers embarked or disembarked... ..	each 50 centimes
For merchandise disembarked in quantities of at least three tons... ..	ton 10 „
Coming from a foreign port—	
For passengers embarked or disembarked... ..	each 1 franc
For merchandise disembarked in quantities of at least three tons... ..	ton 15 centimes
- B.—Berthing due payable by ships placed in quarantine—per ton and per day of quarantine 8 „
- C.—Dues for detention in the sanitary stations and lazarettos—per day and per person

1st class	2 francs
2nd „	1 „
3rd „	50 centimes
- D.—Disinfecting dues:
 1. Disinfection of dirty linen, used effects, ship's bedding, and all other objects or baggage considered to be contaminated—For each passenger disembarked

1st class	1 franc
2nd „	50 centimes
3rd „	25 „

For each member of the crew (including the officers) 25 „
 2. Disinfection of merchandise:

Disinfection performed on board ship—per ton admeasurement	5 „
Merchandise disembarked for disinfection—	
If packed 100 kilogs.	50 „
Leather 100 pieces	1 franc
Small skins, not packed „	50 centimes
 3. Disinfection of rags and paper-making rags... .. 100 kilogs. 50 „

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

FRANCE—REUNION—*continued.*

4. Disinfection of the ship or part thereof contaminated :

If for the whole ship	...	per ton	
	admeasurement		2 centimes
If for the part contaminated only	„		1 centime

The disinfection dues above enumerated in Sections 1, 2, and 4, may be reduced by one-half for ships which carry a doctor appointed or approved by the Government of the country to which the ship belongs and a disinfecting stove of which the safety and efficacy have been certified, if such vessel can prove that all disinfecting and sanitary measures have been carried out on board during the journey in conformity with the prescriptions of Article V. of the Decree of 31st March, 1897, promulgated on the 15th May following.

All sanitary dues and any attendant charges are payable by the shipping company.

Art. 2.—Ships in the French coasting trade and confining themselves to one sea are exempted from inspection dues.

ROUMANIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a new Roumanian Law, in French translation, which was to come into force on the 1st/14th April, providing for the abolition of all octroi dues in Roumania, both in the urban and rural communes, and for the creation instead of a general communal fund derived from excise duties leviable on foreign and native produce.

In place of the 134 octroi taxes which were formerly levied at the town or village barriers, 38 new duties have been imposed, and these will be levied by the Customs on articles arriving from abroad, and by employes of the State on local products and manufactures at the place of production.

The payment of the new dues, which are in nearly every case inferior to the octroi hitherto levied, will always be accompanied by the presentation of a ticket showing that no further dues can be levied at any communal boundary; the State has, moreover, in order to facilitate the effectual working of the new *régime*, organised the establishment of a system of State or authorised private bonded warehouses, or *entrepôts*, by means of which system the importer or producer will only be obliged to defray the accumulated State dues at the time of the sale of his goods.

The following table shows the 38 classes of goods which are dutiable under the new *régime*, and the rates of duty leviable thereon :—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ROUMANIA—continued.

No.	Description of Article.	Unit.	Rate of New Due	
			Fra.	Cts.
1	Spirits of wine (alcohol)	per degree and per decalitre	0	06
2	All other alcoholic preparations containing untaxed alcohol... ..	kilog.	1	00
3	Spirituuous essences	"	2	50
4	Essential oils	"	1	50
5	Oils called " <i>iris</i> ," " <i>ylang</i> ," " <i>ilang-roza</i> ," " <i>fleur d'oranger</i> " and " <i>neroles</i> ," and all compound oils used for the manufacture of liqueurs	"	10	00
6	Liqueurs containing untaxed alcohol	"	1	60
7	Beer	"	1	00
8	Beer yeast, compressed or liquid	"	0	30
9	Wine	decalitre	0	60
10	Brandy containing untaxed wine	kilog.	0	50
11	Vinegar made from untaxed wine and vinegar made from alcohol and other products	decalitre	0	30
12	Essences of vinegar made with acetate of lime and other products	litre	0	75
13	" <i>Truica</i> " and other fruit alcohols up to 30 deg. ...	decalitre	0	70
14	" <i>Truica</i> " above 30 deg.	per degree and per decalitre	0	03½
15	Refined petroleum	kilog.	0	05
16	Mineral oils and cod liver oil	"	0	05
17	Sugar, refined, raw, and candy	"	0	10
18	Glucose	"	0	02½
19	Sweetmeats of all kinds and of every description, pastry, biscuits, syrup, orange juice and other juices not specially mentioned, prepared with untaxed sugar or with alcohol	"	0	50
20	Coal, coke, and briquettes manufactured of untaxed coal	ton	1	00
21	Tea	kilog.	1	00
22	Coffee, roasted or not, of all kinds; coffee substitutes	"	0	30
23	Chicory (a coffee substitute)... ..	"	0	10
24	Lemons, oranges, tangerines, cedrats, pomegranates, carobs, figs of all kinds excepting those in boxes, common black grapes excepting those in boxes ...	"	0	05
25	Olives, marinated or salted, in barrel	"	0	05
26	Olives, preserved otherwise than by marinating or salting, figs in boxes, raisins, currants, pepper, almonds, sweet kernels, pistachio nuts, pine-apples and other Southern fruits	"	0	10
27	Dried mackerel (" <i>tsiri</i> "), cod, herrings, marinated salmon, cuttlefish, sardines in barrel, Russian sardines, mussels and fresh oysters	"	0	10
28	Oysters and lobsters preserved, lobsters, shrimps, sardines in boxes, smoked salmon, caviar	"	0	50
29	Olive oil and all other edible vegetable oils	"	0	08
30	Cocoa in the bean	"	0	08
31	Cocoa in powder, chocolate of all kinds containing untaxed cocoa	"	0	20
32	Rice	"	0	04
33	Wheat and rye flour for bakers	100 kiloga.	0	75
34	Gluten, semolina, tapioca, sago	kilog.	0	05
35	Farinaceous pastes containing untaxed flour	"	0	10
36	Stearic acid (stearin) and fatty acids	"	0	12
37	Stearin candles containing untaxed stearin	"	0	15
38	Mineral waters, natural or artificial... ..	"	0	07

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

COLOMBIA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a Colombian Decree, dated the 9th February, providing that, in view of the scarcity of all articles of food, the following articles shall be admitted into the Republic free of duty for so long as may be judged necessary, viz.:—Sweet potatoes or yams, potatoes, onions, garlic, rice, maize, chick-peas, lentils, beans, sugar, wheat, flour, lard, butter, and all kinds of vegetables, provided that the said articles be imported in their natural state and without any preparation whatever.

**Temporary Free
Admission of
Food Stuffa.**

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

SOMALILAND PROTECTORATE.

The Acting British Consul at Zaila, in a recent report to the Foreign Office, states that comparative rates by railway and by the Zaila-Harrar route are as follows:—

**Rates of
Transport.**

Freight from Aden to Harrar and *vice versa* is 25 rs. a camel load of 560 lbs. Camel hire from Zaila to Harrar is only 18 rs. a load.

The trade of Zaila is entirely in the hands of Greek, Indian, Arab and Jew traders. The trade depends on Harrar, and nothing is produced in Zaila.

It should be noted that there is no Abyssinian merchant trading in Zaila; the Abyssinians trade with Jibouti. The chief traders are Indians, the smaller ones Arabs and Jews. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,948.*)

FRANCE—REUNION.

On pp. 111-15 will be found a note of the principal provisions of a French Presidential Decree providing for the imposition of sanitary dues on shipping, &c., in the Island of Réunion.

**Sanitary Dues
on Shipping.**

NETHERLANDS.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Legation at the Hague, transmitting copies of a comparative statement, published in the "Staatscourant" of the 20th March, of the Netherland mercantile marine on 31st December, 1901, and 31st December, 1902.

**Mercantile
Marine.**

From this statement it appears that there were on 31st December, 1901, 652 ships of a total tonnage of 382,102 tons, and on 31st December, 1902, 693 ships representing 407,309 tons.

The number of ships for which Netherland sea-passports were issued for the first time in 1902 was:—Built in Holland:—65 with

Shipping and Transport.

21,977 tons net capacity, and built abroad—19 with 48,151 tons net capacity.

The statement of vessels cleared inwards during 1902 shows—with cargo, 9,465 steamships with 24,795,240 cubic metres capacity, and 778 sailing vessels with 715,400 cubic metres capacity: in ballast, 847 steamships with 1,342,029 cubic metres capacity, and 258 sailing vessels with 79,903 cubic metres capacity.

The statement of vessels cleared outward in 1902 shows—with cargo, 7,149 steamships with 15,217,099 cubic metres capacity, and 853 sailing vessels with 442,397 cubic metres capacity: in ballast, 3,118 steamships with 10,694,159 cubic metres capacity, and 197 sailing vessels with 302,783 cubic metres capacity.

ASIATIC TURKEY.

In his annual trade report for 1901 (*Annual Series*, 2,836, p. 11), H.M. Consul-General at Beirut stated that the scheme of uniting the port and town of Beirut with the railway station would be carried out before long, and that some material for the purpose had already arrived.

A despatch has now been received at the Foreign Office from the Consul-General reporting that the work was begun in July last and energetically carried on, so that the line was practically complete by the middle of January. It was then found, however, that an error had been made in the gauge, necessitating the relaying of the whole section after the paving of the quay, &c., had been completed.

This blunder, which is said to have cost the contractor some 1,200*l.*, has now been rectified and the line was opened for traffic on 28th February, in the presence of the Governor-General and numerous officials.

The extension is about 1,800 metres long, from the existing station outside the town to the Custom-house where a new passenger station has been built and where the trains now start. It will greatly facilitate the transport both of passengers and goods not only for the Damascus railway but also for the Tramway Libanais which now runs along the shore northwards to a point beyond Jounieh, but may some day be extended to Batrun and even to Tripoli.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

In the annual report for the year 1902 of the Chamber of Commerce, [Pensacola, Florida, it is noted that a contract has been let for a dredge, to cost 150,000 dols. (about 30,000*l.*), now in course of construction, and which, when completed, will be used to widen the present channel of Pensacola Harbour to a width of 500 feet, and maintain its present depth of 33 feet.

**Harbour
Improvements at
Pensacola.**

MINERALS, METALS, AND MACHINERY.**UNITED KINGDOM.**

The Board of Trade have received from the Middlesbrough Chamber of Commerce a statement, from which the following figures regarding the iron and steel trade of the port for the quarter ended 31st March, 1903, are taken:—

The imports of iron ore into Middlesbrough during the quarter ended 31st March last, reached 314,216 tons as compared with 303,921 tons during the previous quarter, and 231,227 tons during the first quarter of 1902.

The shipments of pig-iron and manufactured iron and steel from Middlesbrough for the quarter ended 31st March, compared with those for the corresponding period of 1902, have been as follow:—

	Quarter ended 31st March.	
	1902.	1903.
Pig-iron	Tons. 204,360	Tons. 260,442
Manufactured iron	102,612	41,190
„ steel		
		72,191

Of the exports of pig-iron shown above, 133,836 tons were coast-wise shipments and 126,606 tons foreign shipments in 1903, as against 122,786 tons and 81,574 tons respectively in 1902.

The estimated output of pig-iron at furnaces within the port of Middlesbrough during the quarter under review is shown in the following table. Comparative figures are added:—

	Quarter ended 31st March, 1902.	Quarter ended 31st December, 1902.	Quarter ended 31st March, 1903.
Cleveland pig-iron	Tons. 300,000	Tons. 310,000	Tons. 325,000
Hematite, spiegel, basic, &c. ...	190,000	185,000	180,000
Total Tons	490,000	495,000	505,000

AUSTRALIA.

A supplement to the "Government Gazette" of Western Australia, dated the 6th March last, contains statistics of the output of minerals (other than gold) in that State in 1901 and 1902, from which the following table is compiled:—

**Output of
Minerals (other
than Gold) in
Western
Australia.**

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

Minerals.	1901.		1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Black tin	734	40,000	620	39,783
Copper ore	9,960	69,900	2,262	8,090
Ironstone	20,569	13,246	4,800	2,040
Coal	117,836	68,561	140,884	86,188
Limestone	18,210	4,348	5,080	1,340

TRANSVAAL.

The Board of Trade have received from Mr. John Buchan, Secretary to Lord Milner, a copy of the Transvaal Mining Statistics for the month of January last, from which the following table, showing the monthly output of gold, coal, silver and diamonds in that Colony from July, 1902, to January, 1903, has been prepared :—

—	Gold.		Coal.*		Silver.		Diamonds.	
1902.	Ozs.	£	Tons.	£	Ozs.	£	Carats.	£
July	152,140	646,252	148,875	60,033	17,735	1,932	26·50	75
August	162,358	689,654	150,124	59,956	19,284	2,078	73·50	186
September ...	174,041	739,376	146,005	58,944	20,358	2,157	155·00	425
October	185,115	786,317	158,487	63,633	21,764	2,303	103·25	318
November ...	189,194	803,638	156,170	61,928	21,347	2,256	114·75	370
December ...	196,151	828,945	167,076	65,938	22,085	2,299	286·25	609
1903.								
January	201,155	854,449	171,499	68,311	23,789	2,472	718·50	1,279

According to the monthly analysis of gold production in the Transvaal, issued by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, the production of gold in February last was 196,514 ozs., valued at 834,739*l*.

* The figures given show the quantity and value of coal sold.

GREECE.

H.M. Consul at Volo, in his recent report, states that chrome ore and "verde-antico" marble are extracted in Thessaly, the latter by a British company. The chrome ore is worked and exported, principally in British bottoms, by the Greek owners of the property on which it is found, and considerable and increasing consignments are annually shipped to the United Kingdom, the Continent and America. The quality of this Thessalian ore is such as to render it particularly useful to constructors of certain classes of ovens and furnaces, who employ it for backing and lining their productions. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,947.*)

*Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.***UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

The "Bulletin" of the American Iron and Steel Association for 10th March contains a report on the production of Bessemer steel and of steel rails in the United States in 1902, from which the following particulars have been taken :—

Production of Bessemer Steel Ingots and Steel Rails in 1902. The total production of Bessemer steel ingots and castings in 1902 was 9,306,471 tons, against 8,713,302 tons in 1901, an increase of 593,169 tons, or 6·8 per cent. The increase in 1901 over 1900 amounted to 2,028,532 tons, or over 30 per cent. The production of 1902 was the largest hitherto recorded.

The production of all kinds of Bessemer steel rails by the producers of Bessemer steel ingots in 1902 was 2,876,293 tons, against a similar production in 1901 of 2,836,273 tons, in 1900 of 2,361,921 tons, and in 1899 of 2,240,767 tons. The maximum production of Bessemer steel rails by the producers of Bessemer steel ingots was reached in 1902, but the increase in that year over 1901 amounted to only 40,020 tons, or 1·4 per cent. As compared with 1887, 15 years ago, the increase in 1902 in the production of Bessemer rails amounted to only 831,474 tons, or 40 per cent., while during the same period the increase in the production of Bessemer ingots amounted to 6,370,438 tons, or almost 217 per cent.

At the request of the manufacturers, the production of rails weighing 45 lbs. and less than 85 lbs. to the yard, was separated in 1897 for the first time from those weighing less than 45 lbs. and over 85 lbs. to the yard. This separation is continued for 1902, as follows, Bessemer rails made from purchased ingots or from re-rolled rails not being included :—

State.	Under 45 lbs.	45 lbs. and less than 85 lbs.	85 lbs. and over.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Pennsylvania ...	53,964	766,567	327,894	1,148,425
Other States ...	173,104	1,237,496	317,268	1,727,868
Totals for 1902 ...	227,068	2,004,063	645,162	2,876,293
Totals for 1901 ...	140,214	2,202,237	493,823	2,836,273
Totals for 1900 ...	154,796	1,605,067	602,058	2,361,921

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

BRITISH INDIA.

The "Indian Textile Journal" for the 16th March states that according to the latest official returns the total Cotton Imports into Bombay. imports of cotton into the City of Bombay for the calendar year 1902 were as follows:—

					Cwt.
By rail	...	...	...	...	68,19,540
„ sea	...	...	...	...	7,24,225
					<hr/> 75,43,765

This means a total of 10,76,822 candies, or 21,53,644 bales. So far the receipts were considerably better than those of 1900, which recorded only 34,96,751 cwt., or 4,99,393 candies. The increase over 1901 comes only to 96,000 cwt. Of the receipts by rail, by far the largest arrived from the following places:—

					Cwt.
United provinces...	...	...	...	...	10,62,161
Bombay Presidency	...	...	...	...	21,17,655
Berar	...	...	...	...	17,81,055

But with a view to give a clearer idea of the receipts from the three sources, it may be useful to give the statistics for the triennial period:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
United provinces	4,41,031	6,07,875	10,62,161
Bombay Presidency	8,39,854	24,40,806	21,17,655
Berar... ..	6,18,859	23,65,198	17,81,055

It will be thus seen that while there was a great increase, equal to 74 per cent. in the receipts of Bengal cotton during 1902, compared with those of the year preceding, there was a material diminution in those from both the Bombay Presidency and the Berars. The cotton from the different districts of the Bombay Presidency declined 15 per cent. and that from the Berars 33 per cent.

Coming to the raw staple imports from sea, it is found that the figures for the triennial period are as follows:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Sind	67,905	1,02,343	1,90,353
Non-British ports in India	2,87,259	3,62,255	4,39,414
Foreign ports	6,82,939	5,54,727	7,24,225

Yarns and Textiles.

From all the three places the receipts have been larger in 1902 compared with 1901. The imports from foreign ports, of course, are chiefly American and Egyptian.

The total imports into Calcutta by sea are insignificant, while those by rail come to 6,25,441 cwt., of which 4,31,083 were from the United Provinces. The total by sea and rail equals 6,90,018 cwt., which is about one-eleventh of the Bombay total.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 11th April were as follow:—

Wheat	...	...	...	25s.	4d.
Barley	...	...	...	21s.	10d.
Oats	...	...	...	17s.	2d.

For further particulars see p. 132.

GREECE.

In his report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 2,947) on the trade and agriculture of Thessaly in 1902, H.M. Consul at Volo includes a statement giving full information respecting the areas sown to different crops in Thessaly during 1902, together with comparative tables for 1901 and 1902, showing the quantities and values of the principal crops harvested.

H.M. Consul also appends to his report returns showing the number and distribution of the agricultural population, animals employed for tillage purposes, &c., and wooden and iron ploughs in use.

ITALY.

In a recent report to his Government, the United States Consul at Catania states that the citrus-fruit industry of Italy has been for a long time in a deplorable condition. During the last few years it has been getting worse; lemons that a few seasons past commanded 15 lire (12s.) per thousand on the trees are now hard to market at 3 lire (2s. 5d.) Three mass meetings have been held, at one of which it is estimated that over 50,000 people were present, and the Government has been asked to obtain favourable treatment of citrus products in new commercial conventions; to see that

Agriculture.

Customs exemption in Austria-Hungary be retained; and that better Tariff rates be obtained in the United States and in Russia. New and modern lines of navigation, especially to Australia, are requested, and lower freight rates by sea and rail. Other facilities desired are the abolition of the octroi tax on fruit, the passing of a law on agrarian credit, and aid in the constitution of a large local syndicate for the production and exportation of citrus fruits and products thereof.

A writer of a recent newspaper article criticises the system of selling the fruit by auction and urges the establishment of the old method of private contracts between representatives and buyers.

The lemon juice and essence trade has also been the subject of much discussion. The average annual production of the former varies from 12,000 to 13,000 pipes, and of the latter from 1,400,000 to 1,600,000 pounds, of which the province of Catania produces seven-twentieths, Palermo five-twentieths, Messina four-twentieths, Syracuse one-twentieth, and Calabria three-twentieths. It is proposed to form a monopoly of this industry, which, it is said, could be done with a capital of 5,000,000 lire (200,000*l.*). While the consular district of Catania produces 40 per cent. of the whole, none is exported directly; it all goes to Messina, where it is subjected to certain processes before being finally exported.

Another writer demands that the mixing of aqua fortis with essence, or spirit of lemon, be prohibited. He claims that this drug, which costs but a few pence a quart, has reduced the price of essence to 1·20 lire (11½*d.* per lb.), while the pure essence is worth four or five times as much.

The following table gives the latest statistics of the citrus-fruit industry of Italy:—

Province.					Area.		Trees.
					Hectares.	Acres.	Number.
Reggio Calabria	...	...	...	...	7,948	19,639·5	3,178,212
Messina	...	...	...	...	5,795	14,319·4	1,418,055
Palermo	...	...	...	...	9,463	23,383	3,785,500
Catania	...	...	...	...	5,772	14,262·6	3,309,020
Syracuse	...	...	...	...	2,530	6,251·6	1,012,319
Caltanissetta	...	...	...	...	266	657·3	106,519
Girgenti	...	...	...	...	479	1,183·6	191,828
Trapani	...	...	...	...	1,236	3,054·1	493,728
Foggia	...	...	...	...	540	1,334·3	337,608
Caserta	...	...	...	...	532	1,314·5	352,758
Naples	...	...	...	...	620	1,532	387,896
Salerno	...	...	...	...	1,566	3,869·5	978,895
Cosenza	...	...	...	...	247	610·3	154,821
Catanzaro	...	...	...	...	887	2,191·7	535,089
Cagliari	...	...	...	...	357	882·1	224,467
Porto Maurizio	...	...	...	...	129	318·7	200,253
Genoa	...	...	...	...	363	896·9	372,939
Total	...	...	...	...	38,730	95,701·1	16,739,907

*Agriculture.***ARGENTINA.**

With reference to the notice published on p. 58 of last week's issue of the "Board of Trade Journal," respecting a sample of Caseine which has been received at the Board of Trade from H.M. Consul at Buenos Aires, it may be noted that in his despatch, dated 12th March, forwarding the sample, the Consul stated that the manufacture of Caseine had only just begun in Argentina, but that it was bound to make rapid strides as the manufacture of butter has advanced enormously during the past few years. During the last four years (1899-1902), the exports of butter from Argentina have been 226, 1,170, 1,512 and 4,125 tons respectively.

With a later despatch, dated 19th March, H.M. Consul forwards three further samples of Caseine which may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) The prices quoted for these samples are:—

No. 3,0 ground	}	31l. per ton in Liverpool.
No. 5,0 ground		
No. 5,00 ground		32l. per ton in Liverpool.

The Consul adds that he lately paid a visit to a newly built factory at Dos Hermanos, Tandil, which had only been working a few days. It is estimated that from October to January about two tons of Caseine can be produced per day from this factory.

The factory is built on an "Estancia" of 26,000 acres, where there are 4,000 cows in milk as a rule, and the number is constantly increasing. There is under the same roof a creamery with five separators, driven by steam. The cream is sent to a butter factory and the skim milk is run into a cistern to be made into Caseine.

JAPAN.

According to the "Japan Weekly Mail" of 7th March, the actual yield of rice in Japan for 1902 has now been definitely ascertained and is indicated in the following table:—

Year.							Yield.
							Koku.
1893	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,267,418
1894	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,859,047
1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	39,960,798
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,240,351
1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	33,039,290
1898	...	...	...	...	...	...	47,387,666
1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	39,698,258
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,466,734
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,914,943
1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,999,348
Average year	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,856,217

Agriculture.

The figure for the average year is obtained by taking the seven-year period 1895-1901, and omitting the exceptional years, 1898 and 1897. It will be observed that last year's crop was 9,915,585 koku below the crop of 1901, namely, a decrease of 21·1 per cent., and that it was 3,856,859 koku, or 9·4 per cent., below the average.

Koku = 4·96 bushels.

MISCELLANEOUS.**UNITED KINGDOM.**

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 9th April was

Cotton Statistics. 80,629 and the number imported during the 15 weeks ended the 9th April was 1,595,244.

As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 9th April, 8,665 bales, and for the 15 weeks, 144,715.

For further details see p. 132.

The number of aliens arriving at ports in the United Kingdom during March, 1903, was 23,557 and during

Alien Immigration. the three months ended March, 43,793. Detailed statistics of alien immigration will be

found on p. 133.

The total number of receiving orders gazetted in England and Wales during the month of March last was

Bankruptcy Statistics. 415, as compared with 358 during March, 1902.

For detailed particulars see pp. 134-5.

The values of the total quantity of fish returned as landed on the coasts of the British Isles during the month

Fishery Statistics. of March, 1903, were as follow :—

	£
English and Welsh Coasts	525,813
Scotch Coasts	141,698
Irish Coasts	10,383

Detailed statistics showing the kinds of fish landed, and giving particulars for the three months ended March, will be found for England and Wales on p. 136, for Scotland on p. 137, and for Ireland on p. 138.

AUSTRALIA.

A copy of the Customs Statistics for the State of Queensland has

Trade of Queensland in 1902. been received from the Collector of Customs at Brisbane, giving preliminary trade returns (including Inter-State commerce) for the year

1902, as compared with the previous year. The following is a summarised statement from the return in question :—

Miscellaneous.

	1901.	1902.
	£	£
Total value of imports*	6,070,706	7,211,985
" " exports*	8,611,044	8,845,977
Principal exports—		
Gold	2,544,959	2,704,360
Hides and skins	419,331	600,562
Meat, preserved and frozen	1,290,351	1,523,302
Pearl shell and bêche-de-mer	119,792	147,229
Sugar	756,150	934,467
Tallow	213,227	214,188
Tin	114,111	131,498
Wool	2,109,068	1,284,214
Green fruit	101,535	119,521

* Excluding live-stock borderwise, but including gold coin, as follows:—

	1901.	1902.
Imports	£218,800	£308,000
Exports	39,258	207,298

RUSSIA.

In a recent despatch to the Foreign Office, H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg forwards the following translation of an extract from the "Birjeviya Viedomosti" of 13th/26th March last:—

**Concession to
Recover Duty on
Tea Imported
at Batoum
for Persia.**

"The Russo-Chinese Bank has received permission to import tea in transit for Persia *via* Batoum, Tiflis, Djulfa, and Batoum, Baku, Krasnovodsk, Askhabad or Dushak, provided security is paid on such at the Custom-house of entry equal to the amount of duties under the General Tariff for European goods, the security being only returned when the Batoum Custom-house has received a certificate from the Custom-house of Export that the tea has really been exported to Persia."

GERMANY.

The United States Consul-General at Frankfort reports under date of 6th March, that under the heading "A new German industry," German papers state that the manufacture of quartz glass is rapidly developing in that country.

Quartz glass consists essentially of melted quartz, which is made into tubes and other articles. It is perfectly translucent. The initial experiments in the manufacture of the new glass were made in England, but a firm at Hanau, a few miles from Frankfort, was the first to place quartz glass apparatus upon the market.

The manufacture of quartz glass is yet in its infancy, but has already shown symptoms of vigorous growth. Everybody who knows the properties of quartz glass admits that it will soon replace ordinary glass for many uses. It is only a comparatively short time since German manufacturers revolutionised the manu-

Miscellaneous.

facture of optical glasses and obtained a monopoly of this important industry, and there is reason to believe that this will be repeated with quartz glass.

If quartz glass can be produced at a moderate price—and this seems to be quite possible where electric force can be cheaply obtained from water power—it will no doubt be largely employed, especially in the chemical and electrical industries.

FRANCE—MADAGASCAR.

The following particulars relative to the production of and trade in wax in Madagascar are taken from a report by the Governor-General of the island published in "La Quinzaine Coloniale" of 10th March.

Madagascar is included amongst the wax-producing countries of the world and its produce has always been appreciated on European markets. Up to the present, however, no colonists have taken up this industry seriously in spite of its offering good prospects of remunerative returns.

There is no doubt, says the Governor-General, that bee-keeping, either alone or in connection with agricultural work, could be carried on extensively in Madagascar with good chances of success. Bees abound in the forest regions which run from north to south parallel to the coast.

The exports of wax in 1901 amounted to 262,923 kilos., valued at 649,730 francs (25,989*l.*), as against 217,918 kilos., valued at 507,800 francs (20,312*l.*), during the preceding year.

The chief exporting centres are Tamatave, Mananjary, Vatomandry, Farafangana, Majunga, Analalava, Diego-Suarez, Vohémar and Maroantsetra. Rafia, gum, copal and rubber are also collected by the natives at the same time.

The average price of the wax (per 100 kilos.) at the ports of shipment is as follows:—

Port of shipment.					Price in francs.
Tamatave ...	...	...	...	...	250
Majunga ...	...	...	...	...	200
Vohémar ...	...	...	...	...	200
Fort-Dauphin ...	...	...	...	...	200
Mananjary ...	...	...	...	...	250
Maroantsetra ...	...	...	...	...	145 to 160

COREA.

A despatch dated 5th February has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Seoul, forwarding copy of a statement furnished by the Chief Commissioner of Customs, showing the net amount of duty collected at the eight open ports of Corea during the past five years, from which the following table has been prepared:—

**Customs Revenue
of the Treaty
Ports in 1902.**

Miscellaneous.

Year.	Import.		Export.		Total.	
	Yen.	£	Yen.	£	Yen.	£
1898	740,421	74,812	237,783	24,021	978,154	98,833
1899	654,979	65,497	227,457	22,746	882,436	88,243
1900	688,807	68,881	384,590	38,452	1,073,327	107,333
1901	912,275	93,126	387,183	39,525	1,299,458	132,651
1902	813,621	83,056	354,972	36,235	1,168,593	119,291
Total for 5 years ...	3,810,103	385,372	1,591,865	160,979	5,401,968	546,351
Average for 5 years	762,020	77,074	318,373	32,196	1,080,393	109,270

In his despatch H.M. Minister states that although the receipts for 1902 show a slight decrease as compared with the record year 1901, they are nevertheless extremely satisfactory, proving the vitality of the trade in face of the worst harvest—that of 1901—reaped for a number of years. With the single exception of 1901, the figures are the highest yet reached, being 10,021% above the average for the past five years. The foreign trade of Corea is undergoing steady expansion and its future prospects are promising.

In spite of the temporary falling-off in the receipts at Chemulpo, trade and enterprise at that port are increasing. As in 1899 the returns showed a decrease only to reach a higher point the following year, so it is confidently anticipated that the year 1903 will make up for its predecessor. Japanese are arriving by every steamer with the intention of remaining; the Korean population in the vicinity of the foreign settlement has largely increased of late years, and a movement for shipping Korean coolies to Hawaii has been started, the first batch having gone in December last. The Russian steamship agency at Chemulpo is showing activity and there is now a Russian steamer which sails at regular intervals direct to Shanghai.

The progress of Chinnampo is steady. Its position as the port of Ping Yang and the outlet of the districts in which the principal foreign gold mining concessions are situated, makes its future assured.

Mokpo is still suffering from the over-sanguine anticipations which were entertained at the time of its opening, but is also growing.

Kunsan is a port of great promise owing to its favourable situation near the principal agricultural districts of Corea. The figures show a large proportionate increase each year in the duties collected.

REPORTS OF BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Manchester.—A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce was held on the 8th April, Mr. William Fogg (President) occupying the chair.

A minute of the India, China and Colonial Committee set forth its views upon correspondence which has passed between the Cutlers' Company of Sheffield and the India Office upon a proposal of the former body that specific statutory protection should be provided for trade marks in India, involving their separate registration in that country. The Committee passed a resolution to the effect that the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1889, already affords adequate protection to proprietors of trade marks, and this proceeding was approved by the Board.

Representations were recently made to the Governor of Sierra Leone as to the practical impossibility of complying with the terms of a Sierra Leone Customs Order requiring the production of original sellers' invoices, showing the value—at the places where they were bought—of goods imported into the Colony. In his reply, the Governor undertakes to defer action until the Manchester Chamber has had the opportunity of further expressing its views.

Other matters under consideration were the St. Louis Exhibition: The new Austrian and Russian Customs Tariffs: Indian Customs Service: Lagos Trade Marks and Designs Ordinances: Poisons for Agricultural and Horticultural Purposes, &c., &c.

Oldham.—An ordinary meeting of the Oldham Chamber of Commerce was held on the 6th April, Mr. J. E. Newton presiding. The first question alluded to was the education scheme placed before the Town Council on 25th March last, and referred to the Technical Education Committee for further consideration. The Education Committee of the Chamber had held a special meeting in the week previous and sent in a protest against the scheme to the Town Council. The Council of the Chamber confirmed this action of the committee.

The question of receiving and paying secret commissions was also discussed, and referred to the Law Committee of the Chamber.

Birmingham.—The annual meeting of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce was held on the 6th April with the Right Hon. Jesse Collinge, M.P. (President), in the chair.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the Chamber on its increased membership. He advocated the establishment of a Ministry of Commerce and urged British manufacturers to use their best efforts to combat foreign competition.

A special meeting followed at which the proposal to incorporate the Chamber was approved.

Nottingham.—A meeting of the Council of the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce was held on 6th April, under the presidency of the Chairman (Colonel J. Wright).

Reports of British Chambers of Commerce.

A memorial was sent to Sir Albert Rollit, regarding the County Courts' Jurisdiction Bill, praying that the limit should be extended to 500*l*.

Other matters referred to were Foreign Tariffs and Russian Stamp Dues.

Walsall.—At a meeting of the Council of the Walsall and district Chamber of Commerce held on the 6th April, it was reported that the mixed rate given by the railway company to saddlers' iron-mongers was finally settled.

It was mentioned with regard to the question of standardisation in the engineering trade that Mr. A. W. Hutton had been appointed as the representative of the English tube trade on a new committee which has been formed to deal with the question of screw threads.

Votes of thanks were passed to retiring officers and Mr. J. A. Leckie was elected president.

Wolverhampton.—At a meeting of the Council of the Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce held on the 6th April, a resolution was passed expressing approval of the proposal for a treaty for the adjustment of differences between Great Britain and France, on the Congo, by a joint commission.

It was decided to put upon the agenda of the forthcoming Congress of Chambers at Montreal, a resolution asking that, as Great Britain does not impose a tax upon travellers representing colonial houses, commercial travellers representing British houses should be freed from the impost of licenses for travelling in the colonies.

It was decided that the Chamber should be incorporated.

Newcastle and Gateshead.—The monthly meeting of the Newcastle and Gateshead Chamber of Commerce was held recently, Mr. W. S. Daglish presiding.

The annual report for 1902 was considered by the Council, and ordered to be printed and circulated among the members.

The secretary reported that at the request of several traders he had approached the Postmaster-General in regard to the surcharges recently imposed upon consignment notes, invoices, way bills, and bills of lading, and that the Postmaster-General was considering the advisability of amending the present regulations so as to meet the objections urged against them by the commercial community.

A communication was read from the Traders in Poisonous Compounds Protection Society, asking the support of the Chamber in regard to their action for the extension of the Pharmacy Act so that duly recognised agricultural agents may retail poisonous compounds, where these are for agricultural purposes, under proper restrictions. The Chamber agreed to support their application.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 15 Weeks ended 9th April, 1903.

	Week ended 9th April, 1903.	15 Weeks ended 9th April, 1903.	Week ended 9th April, 1903.	15 weeks ended 9th April, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	67,741	1,299,147	41,514	67,964
Brazilian	—	65,820	594	11,442
East Indian	1,990	22,598	700	9,700
Egyptian	9,206	194,634	2,347	52,597
Miscellaneous	1,692	13,045	510	3,012
Total	80,629	1,595,244	8,665	144,715

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 11th April, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

		Average Price.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 11th April, 1903	...	25	4	21	10	17	2
Corresponding week in—							
1896 ... ..	...	24	11	23	6	14	0
1897 ... ..	...	27	0	23	0	16	3
1898 ... ..	...	35	3	28	0	18	2
1899 ... ..	...	24	6	25	7	16	10
1900 ... ..	...	25	11	24	5	17	8
1901 ... ..	...	26	5	26	0	18	1
1902 ... ..	...	27	5	26	7	21	0

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Alien Immigration—March.

Statement showing the Number of Aliens that Arrived from the Continent at Ports† in the United Kingdom during the Month and Three Months ended 31st March, 1903, compared with the corresponding periods of the previous Year.

(Compiled from the Alien Lists received by the Customs under Act 6 Will. 4, c. 11, sec. 2.)

	Hamburg, Bremen, and Bremerhaven.		Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and Antwerp.		Gothenburg, Christiania, Arendal, and Christiansand.		Libau.		Dieppe.		Other Continental Ports.		Total.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Month ended 31st March.														
Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom:*														
Arrived at London ...	1,281	1,074	655	507	162	130	305	309	...	...	150	158	2,533	2,173
Grimsby ...	508	390	28	104	9	2	...	...	...	...	89	40	584	536
Hull... ..	139	64	84	41	111	75	3	11	...	...	129	135	466	326
Tyne Ports... ..	17	40	31	36	189	116	...	...	...	...	260	245	497	457
Leith ...	20	58	96	66	...	7	...	...	...	...	38	60	156	211
Newhaven ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,500	1,502	2	...	1,500	1,502
Other ports ...	21	16	52	58	75	63	...	1	...	...	1,143	721	1,291	854
Total	1,966	1,642	948	827	546	393	308	321	1,500	1,502	1,761	1,354	7,089	6,039
Aliens described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom :														
Arrived at Grimsby ...	494	7	1,842	1,281	1,084	1,003	...	...	...	...	362	325	3,722	2,616
Harwich ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,733	1,586	1,733	1,586
Hull... ..	138	107	811	486	4,199	2,704	586	674	...	...	3,462	2,904	9,196	6,875
Other ports ...	...	2	272	384	275	98	...	...	...	...	1,270	1,015	1,817	1,499
Total	572	116	2,925	2,151	5,558	3,805	586	674	...	...	6,827	5,830	16,468	12,576
Total of Aliens arrived ...	2,538	1,758	3,873	2,978	6,104	4,193	894	995	1,500	1,502	8,588	7,184	23,557	18,615
Three Months ended 31st March.														
Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom:*														
Total No.... ..	5,459	4,073	2,648	2,110	1,320	1,345	1,064	895	3,222	3,032	3,699	3,118	17,442	14,560
Aliens described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom :														
Total No.... ..	954	283	4,899	3,772	7,386	5,041	1,156	776	...	...	11,956	10,504	26,351	20,376
Total of Aliens arrived ...	6,413	4,356	7,547	5,882	8,706	6,386	2,250	1,671	3,222	3,032	15,655	13,617	43,793	34,944

* The distinction made in this Return between "Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom," and "Aliens described in the Alien Lists as en route, &c.," is due to the fact that a large number of Aliens who arrive from Continental ports are reported to be on the way to places out of the United Kingdom, and it is considered desirable to record this fact. But it is not thereby implied that the "Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as en route, &c.," come to this country for settlement, there being in fact a large emigration of foreigners from this country, while many of the Aliens arriving from Continental ports return to the Continent. (See Annual Report on Emigration and Immigration, No. 183, Sess. 1901, and Monthly Emigration Returns.)

† The ports from which Alien Lists are received are Aberdeen, Belfast, Blyth, Bristol, Cardiff, Dover, Dublin, Folkestone, Glasgow, Gool, Grangemouth, Granton, Greenock, Grimsby, Harwich, Hull, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Liverpool, London, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Newhaven, Newport, North Shields, South Shields, Southampton, Sunderland, and West Hartlepool. The lists received from Dover, Folkestone, Harwich, Newhaven, and Southampton show only deck passengers and persons who after landing, proceed by train as third-class passengers.

‡ The number of sailors included with the Aliens who arrived at ports in the United Kingdom not en route to places out of the United Kingdom in the month of March, 1903, was 1,325, and 1,334 in the same month of 1902; in the three months ended March, 1903, the number was 3,251, and in the same months of 1902 the number was 3,024.

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales.

Number of Receiving Orders Gazetted in the under-mentioned Periods and in the under-mentioned Principal Trades and Occupations.

	March.		Three Months ended March.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Total gazetted	No. 415	No. 358	No. 1,123	No. 1,068
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations:—				
Builders	29	17	87	74
Grocers, &c.	28	19	81	64
Publicans and hotel keepers, &c.	33	21	74	76
Farmers	18	25	42	61
Bakers	14	9	38	31
Decorators, painters, plumbers, &c.	10	4	31	29
Butchers	10	9	80	34
Drapers, haberdashers, &c.	12	8	80	21
Greengrocers, fruiterers, &c.	10	8	30	29
Boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers	10	10	27	23
Tailors, &c.	6	8	24	18
Coal and coke merchants and dealers	11	3	23	9
Fishmongers, poulterers, &c.	8	7	18	17
Confectioners	3	5	16	10
Solicitors	7	6	15	8
Tobaccoconists, &c.	9	1	15	8
Auctioneers	7	2	15	10
Carpenters and joiners	6	3	18	10
Furniture dealers and makers	6	6	18	13
Cab, omnibus and fly proprietors	8	3	13	4
Clothiers, outfitters, &c.	6	2	12	7
Agents, commission and general	1	3	11	12
Corn, flour, seed, hay, and straw merchants and dealers	3	7	11	13
Clerks, commercial and general	4	5	10	9
Jewellers, watchmakers, importers, silversmiths, &c.	2	5	9	18
Carriers, carmen, lightermen and hauliers	4	7	9	14
Provision merchants, &c.	8	3	9	6
Merchants, general	5	4	9	10

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales—continued.

	March.		Three Months ended March.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations—continued:	No.	No.	No.	No.
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	4	4	9	9
Lodging-house keepers	1	1	9	5
Gardeners, florists, &c.	4	1	9	5
Blacksmiths, farriers, &c.	2	4	8	6
Hairdressers	2	4	8	6
Printers, booksellers, and publishers	—	3	7	10
Saddlers and harness makers	1	2	7	6
Carriage, &c., builders	3	4	7	9
Restaurant, coffee and eating-house keepers ...	8	—	7	3
Milliners, dressmakers, &c.	1	2	7	3
Directors and promoters of public companies ...	1	1	6	5
China, glass, and earthenware, &c., dealers ...	8	1	6	2
Officers in Army	4	—	6	2
General dealers	2	4	5	15
Chemists, druggists and chemical manufacturers	—	1	5	5
Wheelwrights	—	1	5	3
Contractors	3	2	5	4
Travellers, commercial	2	3	4	8
Bicycle, &c., manufacturers and dealers ...	2	—	4	5
Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses	2	3	4	6
Ironmongers	1	4	4	7
Timber merchants and wood dealers	2	1	4	4
Dairymen, cowkeepers, &c.	—	2	3	3
Millers	1	3	3	6
Woollen merchants and manufacturers... ..	—	1	3	4
Architects and surveyors	1	2	2	6
Stationers	—	2	2	3
Wine and spirit merchants, &c.	—	—	2	2
Doctors of medicine, physicians, &c.	1	4	2	7
Hosiery, gloves, &c.	1	1	2	5
Brokers, stock and share	—	1	2	4
Curriers, tanners, and leather merchants ...	—	1	2	1
Engineers and foundry, &c.	—	2	1	10
Cattle and pig dealers	—	2	1	5
Stone, marble and monumental masons, &c. ...	—	1	1	1
Fishing smack owners, and masters	—	1	—	1
Cotton spinners and manufacturers	—	—	—	—

Fishery Statistics.—England and Wales.

TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of FISH landed in the Month and Three Months ended 31st March, 1903, and the corresponding periods of the previous Year.

	March.		Three Months ended March.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
QUANTITY.				
	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.
Brill	1,742	1,993	5,429	5,492
Soles	4,673	7,187	14,071	20,608
Sparling	—	—	—	90
Turbot	4,567	4,510	13,244	12,968
Prime fish not separately distinguished	733	606	2,006	3,412
Total prime fish	11,615	14,365	34,550	42,404
Catfish	2,979	*	6,882	*
Ood	148,464	130,549	383,497	255,631
Oonger Eels	2,473	5,066	7,260	12,263
Dabs	8,879	7,998	25,768	18,319
Gurnards	6,322	11,326	17,141	28,538
Haddock	187,563	160,516	543,384	503,949
Hake	7,837	12,627	42,326	33,103
Halibut	3,787	10,164	8,902	16,008
Herrings	1,630	6,032	20,626	29,339
Lemon Soles	3,295	3,636	7,563	9,216
Ling	11,181	14,460	28,870	33,142
Mackerel	22,547	2,145	24,360	10,367
Megrims	1,015	*	4,089	*
Monks (or Anglers)	2,355	*	8,125	*
Pilchards	498	418	1,350	1,176
Plaice	69,718	108,763	143,175	262,242
Skates and Rays	21,675	29,901	73,696	76,130
Sprats	475	263	35,176	13,842
Torsk	862	*	2,956	*
Whiting	19,908	22,956	67,721	66,208
Witches	1,876	*	7,325	*
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish	26,324	43,862	94,097	157,901
Total	571,278	581,440	1,592,239	1,662,364
Shell fish:—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Crabs	400,499	178,378	910,897	420,624
Lobsters	18,944	21,249	35,063	38,003
Oysters	1,515,000	2,366,000	6,276,000	8,667,000
Other shell fish	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.
	25,096	33,865	83,435	118,604
VALUE.				
	£	£	£	£
Brill	5,552	6,272	15,120	16,613
Soles	37,827	54,608	108,904	169,906
Sparling	—	—	—	—
Turbot	20,097	19,527	60,895	62,226
Prime fish not separately distinguished	1,528	1,163	4,282	10,103
Total prime fish	64,514	81,464	188,901	247,853
Catfish	1,520	*	3,744	*
Ood	99,020	79,264	276,564	173,120
Oonger Eels	2,642	4,436	7,087	10,886
Dabs	6,327	4,519	18,417	11,006
Gurnards	2,171	3,697	6,430	9,383
Haddock	140,744	120,017	422,693	419,880
Hake	9,241	14,168	43,192	35,484
Halibut	14,215	29,151	35,838	52,179
Herrings	696	2,861	6,624	11,843
Lemon Soles	10,228	9,957	24,048	25,728
Ling	7,771	9,768	19,876	22,213
Mackerel	27,349	10,867	30,268	16,570
Megrims	1,037	*	3,746	*
Monks (or Anglers)	953	*	3,142	*
Pilchards	101	88	308	330
Plaice	71,604	101,244	187,373	274,099
Skates and Rays	13,729	16,113	46,372	38,897
Sprats	80	56	5,160	3,490
Torsk	501	*	2,030	*
Whiting	10,316	11,362	33,350	33,912
Witches	2,861	*	9,675	*
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish	19,999	26,395	52,262	100,390
Total	507,621	525,121	1,426,800	1,486,263
Shell fish:—				
Crabs	4,632	2,270	8,552	4,797
Lobsters	1,092	1,242	2,180	2,173
Oysters	5,628	6,985	22,859	26,360
Other shell fish	6,840	8,017	20,575	24,096
Total	18,192	18,514	54,146	57,426
Total value of fish landed	525,813	543,635	1,480,946	1,543,689

NOTE.—The figures for 1903 are subject to correction in the Annual Return. The values given are the actual values returned by the local officers at each place.

* Included under "Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish," in this year.

Fishery Statistics.—Scotland.

STATEMENT of the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of the FISH returned as landed on the SCOTTISH COASTS during the Month and Three Months ended 31st March, 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1902.

	March.		Three Months ended March.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
QUANTITY.				
	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.
Sparring	10	16	30	63
Turbot	588	865	1,421	779
Oed	48,564	38,385	112,577	125,084
Conger Eel	2,436	2,399	4,743	6,511
Flounder, Plaice, Brill	10,304	12,170	26,507	30,338
Haddock	78,822	84,834	204,023	216,904
Halibut	1,261	2,270	2,462	4,339
Herrings	47,848	72,130	321,281	445,621
Lemon Soles	1,441	1,118	3,818	3,901
Ling	8,560	15,345	18,747	35,234
Mackerel	38	22	291	117
Seith (Coal Fish)	6,322	6,511	17,375	22,667
Shake	7,873	15,218	18,737	32,100
Sprats	1,282	227	32,377	1,138
Tusk (Tusk)	908	1,004	1,879	2,188
Whiting	12,292	19,623	38,296	49,991
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish	4,189	5,466	12,683	16,177
Total	222,476	276,697	616,657	992,792
Shell fish:—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Crabs	113,929	58,988	407,436	366,404
Lobsters	19,878	39,780	70,902	104,517
Oysters	20,377	50,816	76,515	166,143
Clams	1,040	430	1,380	1,822
Mussels	8,882	5,809	24,439	22,297
Other shell fish	6,396	7,093	12,876	14,607
VALUE.				
	£	£	£	£
Sparring	51	76	146	219
Turbot	2,823	965	6,994	3,624
Oed	23,932	19,789	64,396	71,226
Conger Eel	1,469	1,183	2,942	3,623
Flounder, Plaice, Brill	14,550	18,367	36,838	33,112
Haddock	58,625	52,305	148,152	156,065
Halibut	3,217	4,768	6,512	9,397
Herrings	16,769	21,190	120,542	174,338
Lemon Soles	3,976	2,875	9,390	8,517
Ling	4,063	6,171	9,317	14,994
Mackerel	27	19	100	110
Seith (Coal Fish)	1,464	1,158	4,050	4,728
Shake	3,119	4,099	7,618	9,955
Sprats	170	44	2,379	220
Tusk (Tusk)	312	277	654	660
Whiting	6,411	5,747	17,280	16,428
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish	1,550	1,965	4,831	5,864
Total	137,578	134,991	442,381	515,075
Shell fish:—				
Crabs	609	428	2,130	1,909
Lobsters	1,265	2,223	4,217	5,840
Oysters	87	208	327	646
Clams	145	56	194	254
Mussels	513	353	1,458	1,303
Other shell fish	1,501	1,800	3,084	3,468
Total	4,130	5,068	11,419	13,414
Total value of fish landed	141,698	140,059	453,800	528,489

NOTE.—The above figures are subject to correction in the Annual Return.

Fishery Statistics.—Ireland.

STATEMENT of the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of the FISH returned as landed on the IRISH COASTS during the Month and Three Months ended 31st March, 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the previous Year.

	March.		Three Months ended March.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
QUANTITY.				
	Owts.	Cwts.	Owts.	Owts.
Brill	72	*	138	*
Soles	298	281	543	568
Turbot	54	91	167	228
Total prime fish	419	372	848	790
Cod	2,752	1,950	6,880	5,634
Conger Eel	443	*	1,085	*
Haddock	253	755	1,301	3,064
Hake	125	408	800	8,568
Herrings	312	1,019	4,487	18,064
Ling	155	688	927	1,841
Mackerel	36	19	1,126	4,061
Plaice	1,271	*	3,281	*
Ray or Skate	585	*	1,802	*
Sprats	—	—	—	68
Whiting	1,578	2,018	5,875	7,221
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ...	2,754	6,111	6,953	14,370
Total	10,683	13,334	36,025	61,346
Shell fish :—				
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Crabs	204	116	354	540
Lobsters	1,664	4,176	5,177	8,116
Oysters	+35,944	9,600	+251,730	79,800
Mussels	1,778	*	5,886	*
Other shell fish	1,715	3,844	5,585	16,890
VALUE.				
	£	£	£	£
Brill	152	*	336	*
Soles	1,588	1,388	3,078	2,678
Turbot	341	324	1,050	840
Total prime fish	2,081	1,712	4,464	3,518
Cod	1,994	1,407	5,049	4,486
Conger Eel	369	*	1,225	*
Haddock	170	665	1,001	3,783
Hake	178	489	1,082	8,568
Herrings	78	325	1,559	3,991
Ling	65	394	431	1,040
Mackerel	24	8	831	2,497
Plaice	1,837	*	4,413	*
Ray or Skate	222	*	702	*
Sprats	—	—	—	27
Whiting	1,363	1,365	3,771	5,105
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ...	1,505	4,555	4,159	11,529
Total	9,776	11,480	28,067	38,470
Shell fish :—				
	£	£	£	£
Crabs	2	1	3	4
Lobsters	90	171	255	346
Oysters	+ 28	93	+ 248	170
Mussels	84	*	277	*
Other shell fish	403	668	1,205	1,686
Total	607	763	1,988	2,205
Total value of fish landed	10,383	12,243	30,055	40,675

NOTE.—The above figures are subject to correction in the Annual Returns. The values given are the actual values returned by the local officers at each place.

* Included under "Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish" prior to 1st June, 1902.

† Including returns for Tralee, no returns having been received in the corresponding months of last year.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of March, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1901, in two Volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 7d. for the first, and 4s. 10d. for the second Volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and, in the second volume, details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 17th March:—State of the Labour Market in February; Fatal Accidents to Workpeople in 1902; Agricultural Holdings in Scotland from August to December, 1902; The Price of Bread, Wheat and Flour; Recent Progress in Co-operation; Recent Cases under the Conciliation Act; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the Annual Series issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,950. Constantinople, 1902.

Imports into Turkey from the United Kingdom.

Detailed examination of trade in cottons and woollens, with suggestions for development.

Statistics of Italian, French and Austro-Hungarian trade with Turkey.

Good market for iron and ironware, if British merchants will study conditions.

Government Publications.

Export trade of Turkey.
Bagdad railway.
New quay at Haïdar Pasha.
Movement of shipping at Constantinople.

Working of direct s.s. service from United States to the Levant.
Formation of Chamber of Shipping.

No. 2,951. Consular District of Mexico, 1902.

Hindrance to trade caused by fall in silver.

Revenue and expenditure, 58 per cent. of the former arising from taxation of foreign trade and industry.

Total imports from European countries.

Falling-off in cotton goods trade, due to development of Mexican textile industry.

Mexican exports.

Danger of investing indiscriminately in land companies.

Successful cultivation of tannin bark, tobacco and flax.

Mineral and metallurgical production.

Particulars of railway and tramway development and of industrial progress generally.

Openings for British trade.

This publication contains also a report by the British Vice-Consul at Tampico.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Commercial No. 2 (1903). Correspondence respecting the Ratification of the Sugar Convention, signed at Brussels, 5th March, 1902. [Cd. 1,470]. Price 2½d.

This return comprises diplomatic correspondence which passed in the months of January and February this year with regard to the ratification of the Brussels Sugar Convention by the British and other Governments, and to the declaration of the British Government that they would not consent under any circumstances to be bound to penalise bounty-fed sugar imported into the United Kingdom from any of the self-governing British Colonies. On 1st February, 1903, when the term fixed by the Convention for the deposit of ratifications expired, the following Governments had ratified the Convention, viz., Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria-Hungary and Italy. The other signatory Powers, Spain and Sweden, had not up to the date named deposited ratifications, but the Governments of other Powers have been invited to consent to the acceptance of the Spanish and Swedish ratifications later.

Government Publications.

Commercial No. 3 (1903). List of Countries engaged in the Production of Sugar, together with the Value of Exports from the United Kingdom to each of the said Countries for each of the last five years.—[Cd. 1,471.] Price ½d.

This statement shows the value of the total exports of the United Kingdom in each year from 1897 to 1901 to each foreign country engaged in the production of sugar in any considerable quantity, and also indicates which of these countries have commercial treaties with the United Kingdom containing a most-favoured-nation clause, and which of them are not parties to the Brussels Sugar Convention.

Egypt No. 1 (1903). Reports by H.M. Agent and Consul-General on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of Egypt and the Soudan in 1902. [Cd. 1,529.] Price 10d.

This is Lord Cromer's annual review of trade, industry and finance in Egypt and the Soudan. In spite of a somewhat exceptionally bad year, the revenue of Egypt in 1902 amounted to £E12,148,000, being only £E12,000 less than the highest figure on record, and the expenditure being £E11,432,000, there was therefore a surplus of £E716,000. It is interesting to observe that the rate of taxation per head of population has sunk from £E1·030 (£1 1s. 1½d.) in 1882 to £E·789 (16s. 2d.) in 1902.

Among the subjects dealt with in the report may be noted: Financial Policy, the Soudan, Railways, Agricultural Railways, Distribution of Land, Trade, Commercial Conventions, Nile Flood and Reservoirs, Village Organization, Education, &c., &c.

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in *italics*.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—				
	Denmark:		2948	Somaliland Protectorate 1901-02	2½d.
2934	Denmark (Supplimentary) 1901	1d.	588	<i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda</i>	½d.
	France:			AMERICA, NORTH—	
2949	Brest 1902	1½d.		United States of America:	
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2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	½d.	2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky 1902	1½d.
	Germany:		587	<i>Coal Industry of the United States in 1901</i>	2d.
2945	Estimates of the German Empire 1903	1d.		Mexico:	
	Greece:		2925	Mexico 1901	2½d.
2947	Thessaly 1902	1½d.	2951	Mexico City 1902	2½d.
	Italy:			AMERICA, SOUTH—	
2930	Finances of Italy ... 1902	1½d.		Argentina:	
2933	Italy 1901	3d.	2940	Argentine finances 1901-02	1½d.
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2935	Venice 1901-02	1½d.	2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	½d.
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2943	Odessa (Supplementary) 1901	1½d.		Chile:	
	Spain:		2946	Coquimbo 1901	½d.
2924	Bilbao 1901	2½d.		WEST INDIES—	
	Turkey:		2927	Hayti 1901	1d.
2950	Constantinople ... 1902	2d.		ASIA—	
2932	Crete 1901	1d.		Siam:	
2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899-1901	2d.	2929	Chiengmai 1901	1d.
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2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1d.	2937	Samoa 1902	1d.

*Government Publications.***Treaty Series.**

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.		Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries	$\frac{1}{2}d.$
	France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1d.
	ASIA—	
	Corea :	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	$\frac{1}{2}d.$

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C. :—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2 $\frac{1}{2}d.$
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380	Basutoland	3d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2 $\frac{1}{2}d.$
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THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1d. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

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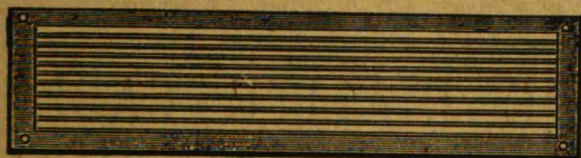
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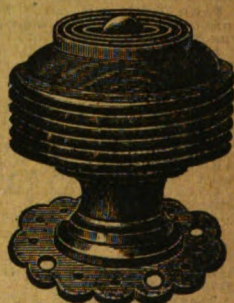
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THE

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Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

APRIL 23, 1903.

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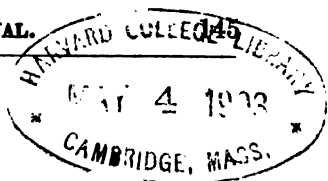
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April 23, 1903.

[No. 334.]

All applications respecting subscription to the "Board of Trade Journal," or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London, to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. vi. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office on pp. 190-1.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in a Trade Report published by the Foreign Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," and a note of a report issued by the Colonial Office during the same period, will be found on pp. 188-9.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade to the effect that the East Indian Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply at Calcutta of materials for steel foundry (blacklead, anthracite coal, moulding composition, ferro-manganese, ground ganister, silica paint and silica sand), on the terms and conditions indicated in the specification to be seen at the Company's offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary to the Company, in London, marked "Tender for Steel Foundry Materials," not later than one p.m. on Wednesday, the 29th of April.

The Company reserve the right to divide the order, also to

Openings for British Trade.

decline any tender without assigning a reason, and do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

For each specification a fee of 1*l.* 1*s.* is charged, which cannot under any circumstances be returned.

CANADA.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Enquiries relating Offices, Victoria Street, S.W., where further to Canadian Trade. information may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—Enquiry is made for addresses of Canadian mills in a position to furnish regular supplies of leather board.

A firm manufacturing all classes of floor and glazed tiles have made enquiry respecting the extension of their business relations with Canada.

A general broker in the north of England who is interested among other things in wood pulp and chemicals is seeking connections with Canadian producers.

Canadian Enquiries.—A Canadian grist mill owner desires to establish connections with English firms importing feed made from grain.

A Quebec lumber exporter wishes to get into communication with a few firms dealing in hardwoods, such as maple, birch, red oak, ash, &c.; also with importers of box-shooks, handles and other small wooden-ware.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A recent report by the Canadian Commercial Agent at Cape Town states that in timber, flooring and ceiling boards, doors and window sashes, railway sleepers, &c., the supply is not equal to the demand. A very largely increased want for strong, medium-priced, household furniture and office requisites has arisen, and enquiries are being made for the names and addresses of manufacturers in these cheaper grades.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have received from the Collector of Customs at Bloemfontein a statement setting forth the results of the deliberations of the Railway Extension Conference which met from the 2nd to the 9th March.

Openings for British Trade.

From this statement it appears that the following lines were decided on:—

—	Miles.	Rate per mile including rolling stock.	Total.
		£	£
1. Viljoensdrift to mile 10 on Harrismith-Bethlehem line	175	7,600	1,330,000
2. Bloemfontein-Johannesburg Grain line— Bloemfontein-Modderpoort section	84	6,500	546,000
3. Harrismith-Bethlehem section	65	6,300	410,000
4. Springfontein-Jagersfontein	50	5,000	250,000

It will be perceived that the first line will place the north-eastern districts of the Colony in direct communication with both Johannesburg and Bloemfontein without going through Natal *via* Ladysmith, Newcastle and Charlestown as at present.

The second line will connect the grain-producing districts of the Orange River Colony with Johannesburg.

The third line forms part of the first.

The fourth line establishes communication between the Jagersfontein diamond mine and the ports of the Cape Colony, and will ultimately be continued to Kimberley.

RHODESIA.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the Reports on the Administration of Rhodesia for the years 1900-1902, issued by the British South Africa Company, from which the following extracts have been made:—

The report of the Civil Commissioner for Victoria (Mashonaland)

“Kaffir Truck” states that a large amount of “Kaffir truck”
and Clothing. has been disposed of by storekeepers, principally brass wire, limbo, blankets, beads, and shawls; likewise a certain amount of clothing, chiefly shirts, and it is noticeable that the demand by natives for clothing of European manufacture is slowly but surely increasing.

In the report of the Commissioner for Bulawayo (Matabeleland) it

“Kaffir Truck” is stated that during the past year trade has
and all classes of generally increased, and this has been particularly the case with regard to “Kaffir truck,”
Merchandise. which embraces all the goods usually bought by natives.

The development of North-Western Rhodesia and the new copper and coal fields in the north, has created a large demand for all classes of merchandise, and several firms contemplate opening branch establishments near the Zambesi in the coming dry season.

Openings for British Trade.

RHODESIA—continued.

There are four brickyards in Bulawayo, one of which is worked by the Government, its output when in full swing being about 24,000 bricks weekly. No experiments have so far been made in the manufacture of tiles. The bricks are not of the best quality, owing to the poor nature of the raw material. A good brick could be made from the blue shale which is found if grinding machinery were introduced.

**Shale-grinding
Machinery for
Brick-making.**

The report for the East Loangwa, West Loangwa, Kafue, and Zumbo districts states that no estimate of imports is possible, as Customs stations have not yet been established. It is probable that the trade in ivory and rubber will practically die out in a few years. European stores and foodstuffs and Manchester goods for sale to natives will be in increasing demand as the country develops.

**Foodstuffs,
Manchester
Goods, &c.**

The report for the North Loangwa district states that native trade is doubtless improving; taxation has induced money to circulate more freely amongst the natives, who now buy for cash, at the stores, coloured cloths, blankets, beads, &c. Traders might, it is said, profitably import good hoes, for which there is always a ready sale, as the ironworking industry among the natives is fast dying out.

Hoes.

In his report on the Tanganyika district, Mr. H. C. Marshall writes:—

**Small Stores for
Native Trade.**

“The great want in the district is small stores for native trade. I feel sure that the first trader who establishes a number of cheaply managed stores and makes the supply of native wants his concern, will reap a substantial reward. Care should be taken to discover the taste of the native in barter goods and to keep a constant supply of them. Some hundreds of pounds of cash are at present being hoarded, and other hundreds will soon be issued in wages. Many of our local men now cross the border to Kasanga in German East Africa, and spend their wages in the stores there, simply because they there find the articles they require, which are unobtainable in the stores in this district.”

*Openings for British Trade.***DENMARK.**

The "Berlingske Tidende" of 17th April contains a notice calling for tenders for the supply of 700 tarpaulins for the use of the Jylland-Fyn State Railways, in accordance with conditions and samples which can be seen at the offices of the Traffic Department of the State Railways at Aarhus and Copenhagen. Tenders must be sent to the Traffic Department at Aarhus before midday on May 1st.

PORTUGAL.

The "Diario do Governo" of 11th April contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened at 11 a.m. on 8th May in the Secretariat of the Administration of the District ("Conselho") of Mertola, for the construction of a bridge over the Ribeira de Carreiras, of the district road number 192, from Mertola to Villa Real de Santo Antonio, at the upset price of 17,636 milreis, or about 2,939l. A provisional deposit of 2½ per cent. of the upset price is required to qualify any tender.

The "Diario do Governo" of 16th April contains a Royal Order, authorising the Directorate of the Minho and Douro Railways to proceed without loss of time to the elaboration of the studies and revision of the estimate already made for the prolongation of the branch line from the Custom-house to Leixões.

The "Diarios" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 15th April, contains a notice to the effect that an application, accompanied by a plan and legal guarantee, for a concession to construct and work, for 60 years, by animal power, a tramway from the Plaza de Riego to the Plaza de Capuchinos, in Malaga, having been presented in the "Gobierno Civil" of the Province of Malaga by the "Sociedad Anonima Tranvias de Malaga," 30 days are allowed in which other applications, accompanied by their respective plans and guarantees, on more favourable terms, may be made.

The same "Gaceta" contains a notice calling for tenders for the supply of cotton cloth ("Lienzo de Algodon") as follows, viz. :—
 36,000 metres for making bed sheets, tenders

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—*continued.*

for which will be opened at 11 a.m. on 28th May next in the Directorate of the Central Establishment of the Administrative Military Services in Madrid, and

20,000 lineal metres for making pillows, tenders for which will be opened at 11 a.m. on 27th May next in the same place, where the sheet of conditions and price limits may be inspected.

The same "Gaceta" contains a notice calling for tenders to be presented in 40 days from the date of the **Concession for a Telephone System.** "Gaceta," in the office of the Civil Government of Guipuzcoa or in the Directorate-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Coretas 10, Madrid, and which will be opened at noon, five days later, for a concession to establish a telephone system in the town of Eibar, and to work it for 20 years. A plan which has been presented is to serve as a basis for tendering, and it is to be noted that the author of the said plan, as an applicant for the concession, has a preference on equal terms. A provisional deposit of 500 pesetas, or about 14*l.*, is required to qualify any tender.

The "Gacetas" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

ITALY.

With reference to the notice on p. 571 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 19th March, the "Gazzetta Ufficiale" (Rome) of the 13th April contains an announcement to the effect that a reduction of 15.25 per cent. of the upset price having been made in the tenders for brass bolts submitted on the 7th April, fresh tenders are called for for these articles to the total value of 40,680 lire (about 1,627*l.*).

Tenders will be opened at the Directorate-General of Royal Arsenal at Spezia and Naples at 11 o'clock on the 28th April. A deposit of 4,800 lire (about 192*l.*) will be required to qualify any tender.

Conditions of contract may be obtained at the office of the Minister of Marine, Rome, at the Directorate-General of Royal Arsenal at Venice, Naples, Spezia and Taranto, at the Technical Offices of the Navy at Genoa and Terni, and at the principal Chambers of Commerce in Italy.

Openings for British Trade.

TURKEY.

In a recent report the British Vice-Consul at Constantinople states that several enquiries have been addressed to that Consulate from India with respect to the opening for competition in the cotton yarn trade. The following extracts are taken from notes supplied to the Consulate by Constantinople merchants in reply :—

Indian Yarn.

"The Bombay make of yarns is not suitable for this market. They are too feeble and soft. The Bombay spinners, if they thought it worth while, could make yarns to suit this market in the lower numbers, that is 8's to 12s. In the finer numbers, 14 to 24, the Indian cotton is not long enough, and Italian and Manchester yarns are preferred.

"The trade from Bombay and Calcutta stands a poor chance of making great strides in this country against Italian competition owing to terms of payment. If, instead of cash on arrival, the Indian spinners would adopt Italian methods, i.e., giving certain facilities by accepting first-class three to four month trade bills, then, and then only, could they expect to reap the benefit of a tremendous expansion of business. The firms in the trade have, as a rule, branch establishments in Manchester, and their drafts are drawn upon them, but always made payable in London at first-class banking houses, and therefore such bills could very easily be negotiated or discounted at once."

With regard to cotton piece-goods the British Vice-Consul writes :

—"It is precisely in a certain class of printed cotton goods that I would suggest that a strong effort should be made by British manufacturers

Printed Cottons. to increase their sales here. With last year's report I sent home samples of Italian printed flannelette, which were sent to the Association of Chambers of Commerce.

"There is an increasing demand for these raised cotton goods among the native population. They wear them for shirts and underclothing in winter, hairy on one or both sides, and printed in certain favourite colours and patterns. It is estimated that 80 per cent. of the printed cotton goods sold in Constantinople in winter consists of this raised flannelette, and that 80 per cent. of this is German and Italian. To compete successfully great attention should be paid to the colours. The favourite colours are red, claret, chocolate, blue (dark and light), grey (dark and light), and black. The colours must be fast. Great stress is laid on this by the Turkish women.

Openings for British Trade.

"I send patterns* again, with the width and price marked, and shall be very glad to furnish any further information in my power to manufacturers at home. This really does seem a field for fresh enterprise on their part." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,950.*)

* To the Association of Chambers of Commerce.

ROUMANIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copies of despatches from H.M. Consul-General at Galatz, forwarding copies of the terms of two concessions and other particulars for the lighting and water supply of the town of Constantza (Kustendjie) in the Dobrudja. Tenders will be received by the Mayor of Constantza not later than the 11th May.

The particulars mentioned above may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

CUBA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of despatch from H.M. Minister at Havana, transmitting a notification by the Cuban Finance Department, calling for tenders for the removal of certain wrecks from the harbour of Havana and other places on the Cuban coast.

Tenders are invited and will be opened at the Treasury Department, Havana, at 2 o'clock p.m. on the 12th June next, for the removal, free from expense to the State, of the wreck of the "Maine," which is in the Bay of Havana, and that of the "Alfonso XII," which is in the Bay of Mariel, and those of the Spanish war ships which were sunk at Santiago de Cuba and at Manzanillo.

Persons desirous of taking part in the bidding must deposit the sum of 1,000 dols., and in order to ensure the fulfilment of the offers, persons whose proposals may be accepted will have to provide securities as follows :—

	Dols.
For the removal of the "Maine"	2,500
" " " "Alfonso XII"	1,000
" " " "others, each	500

Such further particulars as have been received may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Openings for British Trade.

MEXICO.

In his recent report to the Foreign Office, H. M. Consul at Mexico City states that during the fiscal year 1901-02 imports from Belgium into Mexico increased by 63,207l.

Rails.

He adds that there will probably be an even greater increase shown in this trade in the present fiscal year owing to the heavy importation of Belgian rails. In the case of this last trade the British manufacturers might, in the Consul's opinion, have shown more activity; but it is even now not too late, as the year 1903 promises even greater activity in this direction.

The Consul also states that there will always be a demand for cotton machinery in Mexico, not perhaps so great as in previous years, but shuttles and bobbins and other spare parts will always be required.

Mining Machinery. See remarks on p. 157.

Further on in his report the Consul writes:—"The Mexican market for foreign commodities is not a large one, as the number of inhabitants consuming European manufactured goods is small; I should say about one-third at least buy no foreign commodities whatsoever. These comprise the lower classes and the Indians of the Sierras. In the cities the middle class, the small shopkeeper, the artisan, the small lawyer and professional man are, as a rule, very poor and very frugal, and what they buy is very insignificant; there remain only the upper and wealthier classes to be supplied. Besides all those goods which the United Kingdom exports to the United States there are some articles in which the British can, I think, successfully compete with the Americans in this market; these are gentlemen's haberdashery; hats and some articles of ready-made clothing, such as overcoats and waterproofs; carriages and carts. There is an increasing demand for teas and groceries, porcelains and crockery, also enamelled ware such as basins and ewers. Electrical appliances of all kinds are largely in demand, but at present this important trade, which is bound to increase in importance, is to-day entirely in the hands of Americans."

The Consul further draws the attention of makers of hardware and ironmongery to the very active building being carried on in the City of Mexico, and at other places in the Republic. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,951.*)

**Builders'
Hardware and
Ironmongery.**

Openings for British Trade.

BRAZIL.

The "Diario Official" of Brazil of 24th March contains a Decree opening a credit in the Ministry of Industry Communications and Public Works of 150,000 milreis, or about 7,500*l.*, for the construction of a telegraph line from the mouth of the River Acre to Caquetá.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS.**FRANCE.**

With reference to the notice on p. 525 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 12th March last, the Board have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Bordeaux stating that Monsieur Demant, 156, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been appointed the Official Agent for Great Britain in connection with the forthcoming International Exhibition at Limoges, and that all information which may be required by intending exhibitors can be obtained from him.

ARGENTINA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a communication from the Argentine Legation in London, stating that in the month of April, 1904, an International Exhibition of Hygiene will take place in the City of Buenos Aires in conjunction with the Second Latin-American Medical Congress. Full particulars may be obtained by intending exhibitors on application to the Secretariat du Congrès de Médecine (Faculté de Médecine), Rue Cordoba, 2,182, Buenos Aires. A copy of the programme and arrangement of the exhibition, which, it is stated, is under the patronage of the Argentine Government, may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Constantinople.—In his report on the trade of Constantinople for the year 1902 (*Annual Series*, 2,950), the British Vice-Consul at that city writes:—

“An annual trade report is a very imperfect medium for supplying merchants at home with information of practical use to them.

“Where a Consulate can be of real use to merchants is in answering enquiries, working up and supplying detailed notes on special trades, &c. A good many applications for assistance of this kind reach this Consulate, and every effort is made to reply fully and promptly. But if this source of information were more generally known and appreciated at home, such applications might be more numerous.

“It would be presumptuous for me to attempt to enter into technical details of a trade of which I know nothing, but I have a suggestion to submit for the consideration of manufacturers at home.

“Constantinople is full of Austro-Hungarian and German commission agents representing woollen houses on the continent. So far as I can learn no single firm in the United Kingdom has a representative here. What business there is is done through native (Armenian) houses established at home.

“I drew attention last year to the remarkable fact that the big import trade in Manchester goods only accounted for one solitary Englishman in Constantinople as representative of manufacturers. Since then I am glad to notice that he has been joined by a young assistant, and that another syndicate has also sent out a young representative to learn Turkish and study the market.

“I have watched these men dealing with native buyers, both for this and the Persian market, and I was strongly impressed with the immense benefit that must result to our trade from natives having to do with straightforward and smart young Englishmen, who can talk to them in Turkish, and who can keep their own employers at home informed of the exact requirements of their customers.

“My suggestion is that some house, or combination of houses, in the woollen trade at home should send out a representative to work up their trade here.

“It would not be easy work at first. Two or three years might be required to learn enough of the language and the ways of the market to enable him to hold his own, as he would meet with the opposition of the native houses at home already in the trade. Of course, he should be carefully selected for the post, and should possess a good knowledge of the trade.

“Given the necessary qualifications and enough patience and perseverance to overcome the first difficulties, he should be able to render great services to his employers, provided that they on their own side are prepared to take full advantage of, and act on, the

British Trade Abroad.

intelligence placed at their disposal. Needless to say, such an envoy would meet with all possible assistance and support from this Consulate. . . .

"Enquirers as to the import trade in Turkey are often told that their only chance of establishing a big business is to give credit. (See remarks on p. 151 on the subject of Indian yarn.)

"At the same time the greatest care is required to have reliable and competent representatives on the spot who can watch the market and give timely warning.

"The French Chamber of Commerce here addresses its countrymen on this subject in these terms:—

"'Success and security in business at Constantinople depends almost entirely upon the representative. Enormous risks are run by confiding one's interests to the first comer. Good agents exist and are not hard to find, but it is indispensable to make very careful enquiries, not only from references given, but also from various sources on the spot, before accepting a representative.'

"The fact is that the slack and corrupt administration of the Bankruptcy Law in the Turkish Courts has encouraged fraudulent bankruptcy to such an extent that it has been developed into a system." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,950.*)

Mexico.—H.M. Consul at Mexico City in his report for 1902, recently issued by the Foreign Office, writes:—"I often hear complaints made that British merchants do not carry out their orders quickly enough, pack badly, and so on. These criticisms can be made with quite as much truth of their rivals. I know of two orders being placed last August for the same class of goods, one in Chicago, the other in the United Kingdom. The British goods arrived in October, but the American firm did not forward the goods until December. . . .

"Local factories are now making very good woollen suitings, both for men and women, and Mexico will go on importing less and less of these goods as time goes on. This year a new departure has been made with a view further to develop the Mexican textile trade. The Government has sent a Commission consisting of two merchants and an expert from the Customs Department to South America with a view to opening up a trade with those countries in Mexican produce.* With the exception of cigars and cigarettes I do not think the result of this Commission will be very great, at least in the immediate future, but it is an indication that in this market there will be less chance for foreign textiles. . . .

"Flax, in the State of Tlaxcala, has proved so successful that the project of establishing a linen factory convenient to the fields and readily accessible from the Mexican and Inter-oceanic Railways, both of which intersect the State, is being seriously considered.

* See "Board of Trade Journal" of 2nd October last, p. 34.

British Trade Abroad.

There are already two linen factories in Mexico, one in the city and the other near Cuarnavaca."

The following extracts are quoted from a letter to the Consul by an Englishman who is one of the foremost mining engineers in Mexico, and manager of one of the important British companies:—
"As a rule, what is required in mining is the cheapest possible machinery which will do the work efficiently; the extra good material and finish do not come into consideration; and if machinery can be obtained at a lower price which will do the work for eight or ten years, preference would in many cases be given to this class of machinery, as against machinery which would cost more, and probably last a longer time. This is explained by the fact that mines have no determined duration, and that many people prefer not to look too far ahead. Regarding Mexico in particular, the question of proximity is a very great factor. . . . Mexico must continue to obtain mining machinery from the United States, unless British manufacturers appoint agents and keep a stock in the country, the latter being practically an impossibility, as no stock could cover all requirements, although it would cover certain articles which are more or less in common use. There is also another point, namely, that British manufacturers, as a rule, want to sell what they produce and not what customers very often require, and that in certain instances they are tied down to old customs and usages. For instance, pipe makers in the United Kingdom furnish three classes of pipe—gas, water and steam—and I understand that there is some difference in the thread. American manufacturers supply only one class of pipe, which may be a little heavier than necessary for gas, but which answers in most cases sufficiently well for gas, water and steam, all having the same thread and the same fittings, thus greatly simplifying the trade."

Further on in his report the Consul writes:—

"This Consulate receives a large number of letters of enquiry on trade matters from manufacturers and others interested in extending their trade relations with this country. I take this opportunity of pointing out that it is easier to answer letters of this kind if the enquirer facilitates matters by not withholding essential particulars; it is not sufficient merely to ask a question and then to expect an intelligent answer. The questions asked the Consulate during 1902 on trade matters covered over 300 altogether different subjects; it has to be remembered that British Consuls are not trade experts, and that in requesting information they should be told as much about the subject as possible Merchants and manufacturers cannot send this office too many catalogues, even in English, as when enquiries are made by local firms I am always ready to translate and furnish all the particulars I can. When writing for names of persons or

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firms who would be willing to act as agents, it is as well to state what commission will be allowed, how orders will be executed, what documents are required, cost of shipping, if prices are f.o.b. at Liverpool, if advertising expenses will be allowed to the agent, and so on. It must not be forgotten that while a proper care is taken in furnishing interested parties with these names, that this Consulate cannot undertake any responsibility as to the financial standing of the parties, and that enquiries on this source should be made through the usual channels.

"In December, in consequence of the initiative taken by the Chamber of Commerce in the City of Mexico, and as a result of the fall of the value of silver, 30 of the leading importers and dealers in dry goods and general drapery in this city have signed an agreement to the following effect:—

"First.—Not to make any sales on longer credit than four months.

"Second.—Not to allow any discount on credit sales.

"Third.—Not to allow more than 4 per cent. discount on cash sales.

"Fourth.—This agreement to take effect from 1st January, 1903."
(*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,951.)

IMPORT TRADE OF THE TRANSVAAL IN JANUARY, 1903.

The following table, showing the value of the principal and other articles imported into the Transvaal in January, 1903, as compared with January of the previous year, is compiled from official figures published in the Transvaal "Government Gazette" of 13th March:—

Imports.

Articles.	1902.	1903.
Metals and manufactures of (<i>includes agricultural implements, bicycles, hardware, iron and steel manufactures, cutlery, machinery, &c.</i>)	£ 280,000	£ 411,000
Apparel, haberdashery, &c. (<i>includes hats</i>)	98,000	308,000
Provisions, exclusive of corn and dairy products (<i>includes coffee, chicory, biscuits, meats, fresh and preserved, fish, fresh and preserved, jams, sugar, tea, vegetables, fruits, condiments, salt, &c.</i>)	83,000	295,000
Wood and manufactures (<i>includes furniture</i>)... ..	19,000	196,000
Corn and grain (<i>includes flour, meal and rice</i>)	37,000	148,000
Leather and manufactures (<i>includes saddlery and boots and shoes</i>)... ..	36,000	103,000
Dairy products (<i>includes butter and butterine, eggs, cheese, preserved milk, &c.</i>)	24,000	96,000
Live animals	3,000	77,000
Beverages (<i>includes ale, spirits, wine and mineral waters</i>)	18,000	72,000
Drugs and chemicals	40,000	55,000
Groceries and oilmen's stores (<i>includes oils and paints</i>)	18,000	50,000
Cotton manufactures	16,000	38,000
Soap and candles	13,000	30,000
Stationery (<i>includes books and printed matter</i>)	9,000	81,000
Vehicles (<i>other than bicycles</i>)	4,000	28,000
Tobacco, raw and manufactured (<i>includes cigars and cigarettes</i>)	11,000	25,000
Woollen manufactures	7,000	21,000
Jewellery and plated ware (<i>includes clocks and watches</i>)	10,000	18,000
Cocoa, chocolate, and confectionery	6,000	14,000
Toys and sporting goods	4,000	6,000
Tobacconist ware	3,000	4,000
Electric cable, wire, wire rope, and fittings	3,000	1,000
Other articles of merchandise	43,000	141,000
Total...	£ 785,000	2,168,000

Of the total value of merchandise imported into the Transvaal during January, 1903, 950,000*l.* worth were received *viâ* Cape Colony, 932,000*l.* worth *viâ* Natal, and 286,000*l.* worth *viâ* Delagoa Bay.

NOTE.—The above figures do not include free importations for the use of the Local Government or Military Stores, Field Force Canteen and Officers' Messes, Burgher Relief Committee, Repatriation Department, or Railway Material imported as "Public Stores."

TRADE OF CAPE COLONY IN 1902.

With reference to the statement on p. 435 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 26th February last, the Board of Trade have received, through the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, statistics showing the value of the trade of Cape Colony for the year ended 31st December, 1902, as compared with the corresponding period of 1901. The following tables show the total value of the imports and exports, including transit trade in both cases, of the principal and other articles into and from the Colony during the periods above-mentioned:—

Imports into Cape Colony.

Principal and other Articles.	Year ended 31st December, 1901.	Year ended 31st December, 1902.
Provisions of all kinds (<i>includes butter, cheese, chicory, coffee, meats, rice, sugar, and tea</i>)...	£ 2,680,000	£ 3,814,000
Metals and metal manufactures (<i>includes iron, lead, machinery and hardware</i>) ...	1,692,000	3,088,000
Haberdashery and millinery	1,461,000	2,232,000
Cotton manufactures	1,196,000	1,949,000
Provisions, oilman stores, &c. (<i>n.o.d.</i>) ...	1,193,000	1,635,000
Corn, &c. (<i>flour, maize, oats, wheat</i>) ...	1,386,000	1,588,000
Leather and leather manufactures (<i>includes boots and shoes, and saddlery and harness</i>)	984,000	1,504,000
Wearing apparel (<i>includes hats</i>)	1,056,000	1,562,000
Wood, and manufactures of (<i>includes furniture and cabinetware</i>)	840,000	1,470,000
Alcoholic beverages (<i>includes wine, beer, and spirits</i>)	731,000	1,005,000
Stationery (<i>includes books</i>)	497,000	759,000
Woollen manufactures	395,000	610,000
Tobacco of all sorts	615,000	774,000
Carriages and other wheeled vehicles ...	182,000	434,000
Drugs and chemicals	293,000	422,000
Coal, coke and patent fuel	368,000	398,000
Soap and candles... ..	232,000	293,000
Cocoa and chocolate and confectionery ...	226,000	283,000
Jewellery and plated ware	116,000	220,000
Pipes, iron and earthen	121,000	184,000
Oil, mineral	118,000	181,000
Agricultural implements	72,000	161,000
Linen manufactures	85,000	130,000
Earthenware and crockery	92,000	140,000
Bags, all sorts	92,000	137,000
Paints and colours	70,000	111,000
Cement	68,000	111,000
Dynamite and blasting compounds	76,000	70,000
All other articles of merchandise	2,808,000	4,310,000
Total merchandise	£ 19,745,000	£ 29,575,000
Articles imported for the Colonial Government	1,671,000	2,534,000
Specie	2,578,000	2,111,000
Grand total, imports	£ 23,992,000	£ 34,220,000

NOTE.—The official figures of imports into Cape Colony are exclusive of imports by the Imperial Government, but it may be noted that supplies for the army were partly contracted for on the spot.

*Trade of Cape Colony in 1902.***Exports from Cape Colony.**

Principal and other Articles.	Year ended 31st December, 1901.	Year ended 31st December, 1902.
	£	£
Gold (raw)	1,226,000	5,915,000
Diamonds	4,930,000	5,427,000
Wool (washed, scoured, and in the grease) ...	1,489,000	1,930,000
Ostrich feathers	839,000	895,000
Hair, Angora	503,000	770,000
Hides and skins	448,000	483,000
Copper ore... ..	571,000	273,000
All other articles of merchandise	167,000	140,000
Total merchandise ... £	10,173,000	15,833,000
Imported goods, re-exported	547,000	548,000
Specie	153,000	1,075,000
Grand total, exports ... £	10,873,000	17,456,000

MINING INDUSTRY OF THE PRIMORSKY PROVINCE.

A report on the mining industry of the Primorsky province has been received at the Board of Trade, through the Foreign Office, from the British Commercial Agent at Vladivostock. This report states that the mining industry of Eastern Siberia is getting more important every year, and during the late visits of the Minister of Finance important changes were made in the laws regarding the promotion of limited companies. Special laws have always existed for the regulation of mining in the Primorsky province, or seaboard province, as this district is called, which is bounded by the Pacific Ocean, the most important being that no claims are allowed to be staked out within a hundred versts (66 miles) of the sea without special permission from the Governor-General, and no foreigners are allowed to own claims or to work them. Several exceptions have been made to this, however, notably in the case of the Ussuri Mining Company and in the case of the North East Siberian Company, in both of which some of the Directors are Englishmen. Since the visit of the Minister it is also permitted to form small developing companies with a capital not exceeding 60,000 roubles (about 6,000*l.*) and these companies are allowed to issue shares to the value of 1*l.*, whereas formerly the lowest shares issued were 250 roubles (25*l.*). The chief gold mining centres are at Blagovestchensk and at Nikolaevsk, on the Amur River; coal mining is in full swing near Vladivostock, and at Olga Bay, some 200 miles north of Vladivostock there are galena mines and iron ore mines. In Kamchatka, near Petropavlosk, platinum and gold

Mining Industry of the Primorsky Province.

have been discovered and are being worked; and farther north in the Chuckotsk peninsula, gold has been found and prospecting is being carried on by the North-East Siberian Company, to whom belongs the whole peninsula. The development of the gold mining industry in the Primorsky province is shown by the following results of gold mining during the last 30 years:—

From the years 1871 to 1880 inclusive, 43,050 oz. were obtained.

„ „ 1881 to 1890 „ 70,856 „ „ „

„ „ 1891 to 1899 „ 476,207 „ „ „

As compared with other gold mining districts in Siberia the outturn is small, but it must not be concluded from these figures that the Primorsky province is poorer in gold than the Amur districts, only that the mining industry has not been developed. As the industry is new, there are many fields not yet prospected, and on account of the difficult conditions under which the industry has been carried on, the owners of goldfields have not ventured to work these fields unless they are certain of getting a very high yield of gold. The average yield of gold from alluvial claims is 3 dwts. 7·7 grs. per 100 pounds of sand, or 2 dwts. 9·4 grs. per ton.

The unusual climatic conditions and the generally hilly nature of the surface where the fields are situated practically put dredging or hydraulic work out of the question, and the Siberian method of working is the only one to be recommended, but of course with improvements.

The Siberian system is shortly as follows:—After the ground has been cleared, it is dug up and removed in layers of from 8 to 9 inches in thickness. Each layer is carefully tested in order to determine its value, and if it does not contain payable gold it is dumped on ground either outside the claim or else on to ground which has already been worked out. The layers containing payable gold are taken to the sluice boxes, where they are washed and the gravel removed by carts. The gold-saving arrangements are very primitive and by the introduction of modern methods can be much improved. The pay dirt is washed immediately after its removal from the ground, and as the washing can only take place during the summer months, namely from May to September, work is carried on day and night. During the winter all prospecting is carried out, as it is easy to sink small shafts without being troubled with water. In opening up a new claim, production can be at once commenced, and if systematically carried out, the removal of pay dirt can proceed simultaneously with the stripping of another section.

Gravel containing one zolotnik to the 100 pounds, or 1 dwt. 18 grs. per ton, is considered more than payable under certain conditions. The above-mentioned climatic conditions apply chiefly to the Amur goldfields, for in the Primorsky province the climate is milder; labour is cheaper, being either Chinese or

Mining Industry of the Primorsky Province.

Korean, and the cost of transport of machinery is much lower. The development of the mining industry is proceeding very slowly on account of the total absence of the necessary capital for exploiting the mines, and as a direct effect of this absence there are no business men of financial standing on the spot. The formalities in connection with obtaining the necessary registration of the claims are intricate and take a long time, besides being expensive; it often takes two seasons to receive the plans and title-deeds from the Mining Department, during which time the mines lie idle and the capital unused. On account of there being very few mining experts in the country the mines are not worked economically, and the most up-to-date methods are not in use. In order to develop the mining resources of the country it is necessary to induce foreign capitalists to invest their money in the industry, and this can only be done by making certain alterations in the Mining Laws. When the Minister of Finance was here last autumn (1902) the Vladivostock Chamber of Commerce approached him on this subject and proposed the following:—Permission to allow foreigners to act as directors of mining companies to prospect, to stake out claims, and to employ foreign engineers as managers of mines, to create a local mining office at Vladivostock, and to permit the free use of explosives. The Minister agreed with the necessity of altering the present laws and practically promised to move in the matter. In fact, during this last month (February, 1903), an American has been given full rights to mine in the Primorsky province.

AMERICAN COMPETITION IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

At the recent conference called by the British Iron Trade Association to discuss the whole subject of American competition in the iron and steel industries, a paper was read by Mr. Axel Sahlin, of Millom, Cumberland, dealing with the development of the American iron industry, with special reference to its influence upon the British iron industry.

In this paper Mr. Sahlin expresses the opinion that the iron ore discoveries in the Lake Superior region and in Western Ontario do not promise in any way to alter conditions in the iron trade; in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, however, new developments may confidently be expected to arise from the continued discoveries. In Cuba some valuable lodes of magnetite, well within the Bessemer limit, are being investigated, which sooner or later may lead to the construction of important works on the Atlantic coast.

In ore transportation some improvements are reported, including a new type of ore steamer and an automatic scraper bucket, which,

American Competition in the Iron and Steel Industries.

combined with the rapid increase in the number of 50 ton steel cars, effect a very appreciable economy in the handling of materials in bulk.

Dealing with the subject of fuel, Mr. Sahlin mentions in connection with the strike in the anthracite fields, that to-day anthracite is only exceptionally used alone in the blast furnace, owing to its tendency to decrepitate into fine flakes and dust. More modern practice has been to mix it with a considerable percentage of coke, which results in a greater yield of the furnace and better economy.

The building of blast furnaces in America has, says Mr. Sahlin, during the past three years, been so rapid, that the coke supply has not kept up with the requirements. In blast furnace construction, the latest conclusion is that it is better, though somewhat more expensive, to run two 300 ton blast furnaces, than one of 600 tons capacity.

In steel manufactures, the basic open-hearth process continues to grow rapidly, encroaching on the Bessemer converter and the acid Siemens furnace. The prevailing size of the open-hearth furnace is maintained at 50 tons. Many large plants with from 6 to 15 of these 50 ton stationary furnaces have recently been built or are being built in all districts. A unique development is the starting all over the country of a great number of small steel foundries, working with bought metal and scrap, and producing steel castings of superior quality at comparatively reasonable prices. Steel castings are gradually taking the place of iron castings whenever subject to variable stress or vibration. In this industry there is an outlet for small capitalists which the large aggregations cannot easily close.

With regard to rolling mills, Mr. Sahlin states that continuous rolling is rapidly gaining ground for producing billets, rods and merchant steel. The new three-high plate, several of which are under construction, are of largely increased strength, capacity and size.

Mr. Sahlin considers that the preponderance of the Steel Corporation will be very fortunate for the British and European trade. The Steel Corporation, with its heavy capitalisation, will, unquestionably, use every resource to maintain prices at somewhere near their present level, at which most British works can undersell the American product, both at home and, what is more important, in Colonial markets. Before long, however, both American and German competition will be keenly felt in the British and Colonial markets, especially in such as are open for exploitation and do not enjoy protection.

In Mr. Sahlin's opinion the better part of the British iron and steel industry occupies an unassailable position, but this position cannot be maintained or be made profitable unless advantage is taken of the improvements which have lately been developed in

American Competition in the Iron and Steel Industries.

foreign countries. He suggests certain steps which might in the meantime be taken with benefit, viz. :—

1. The securing of the control of as large a share as possible of our own raw materials, from the mineral in the ground to the finished product.

2. In coal mining there must be utilised to more general advantage all automatic coal-cutting, transporting and conveying machinery, methods of washing and separating, and larger and proportionately lighter railway waggons.

3. Ore steamers should be adapted for cheap and automatic loading and unloading. Larger trucks, automatic shipping piers and up-to-date automatic ore-handling machinery should be introduced.

4. Combination, specialisation, and standardisation must be arranged for, and automatic machinery must be introduced into mills and steel works. Considerable economies would thereby be effected.

Mr. Sahlin also deals with the training of engineers and managers, and the question of protective duties.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of a copy of a schedule of fixed rates of duty on composite goods, under Section 7 of the Finance Act, 1901, determined up to 31st March, 1903, which has been issued by the Board of Customs. The rates in question have already been noted in the "Board of Trade Journal," with the exception of that on Nestlé's Milk Food, which is now charged with duty at the rate of 1s. 6d. the cwt. to cover both sugar and flour ingredients.

NATAL.

With reference to the notice published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 20th November, 1902, giving a list of the transit rates imposed upon goods passing through South African Customs Union Ports to places outside the South African Customs Union, the Board of Trade have now received a communication from the Agent-General for Natal to the effect that the "transit dues" imposed upon goods passing through Natal will be reduced from 3 per cent. to 1 per cent. *ad valorem* from the 24th April, 1903.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MAURITIUS.

The Board of Trade have received from the Collector of Customs at Port Louis, Mauritius, a copy of a Proclamation (No. 7 of 1903), which was assented to by the Governor on the 4th March last, and which prohibits the importation into the Colony of Mauritius from Réunion, in consequence of the existence of cattle plague at that place, of the following:—

Cattle, as defined by Ordinance No. 39 of 1881; horses, asses and mules; carcases, as defined by Ordinance No. 39 of 1881; also straw, hay, litter and manure.

EGYPT.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 4th April contains a Valuation Tariff,* in force from 1st April to 30th June, for the purpose of assessing export duties on various articles of Egyptian produce, such as sesame, flax, tow, wool, ivory, wax, hides of various kinds, horns and hoofs, cotton-seed oil, &c.

This Tariff may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

* For particulars as to the nature of these Egyptian Valuation Tariffs, see "Board of Trade Journal" for the 19th March, pp. 589-90.

SPAIN.

Adverting to the notice on p. 75 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 9th April, it is to be noted that the "Gaceta de Madrid" of 16th April contains a Royal Order declaring 35·36 per cent. to have been the average rate of exchange (premium of exchange on Paris) during the first fortnight of the present month, and that the corresponding reduction in the rate of Customs duty payable in gold will be 26 per cent. during the second fortnight of the month.

TURKEY.

With reference to the notice published on pp. 265-6 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 5th February last, notifying that the *modus vivendi* between Turkey and Greece had been prolonged until 15th March, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a telegram from H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople reporting that the Turco-Greek Commercial Arrangement has been signed.

**Prohibition of the
Importation of
Live-stock, &c.
from Réunion.**

**Valuation Tariff
for Exports.**

**Rate of Exchange
for the
Adjustment of
Customs Duties
payable in Gold.**

**Certificates of
Origin:
Turco-Greek
Commercial
Arrangement
signed.**

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***SERVIA.**

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a Circular which has been addressed by the Servian Minister of Finance to the Customs authorities, explaining the terms of the Customs Law relative to the signature by members of commercial firms of Customs' declarations on behalf of their firms.

**Regulation
Respecting the
Signing of
Customs
Declarations.**

The Circular prescribes that those persons designated as authorised to sign for a firm will do so in future by simply signing the name of the firm, and not by affixing their own names in the name of the firm.

CUBA—UNITED STATES.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the ratifications of the new Reciprocity Treaty between Cuba and the United States were exchanged at Washington on 31st March. It is to be noted, however, that the Treaty has yet to be approved by Congress before it can become operative.

**Ratification of
the New
Reciprocity
Treaty.**

The full text of the Treaty will be published in the "Board of Trade Journal" as soon as it is received by the Board.

COLOMBIA.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 450 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 26th February relative to the gradual reduction of export duties in the Republic of Colombia, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a Colombian Decree, dated 30th January, 1903, abolishing all export duties with the exception of those on precious metals.

**Abolition of all
Export Duties
except those on
Precious Metals.**

The export duties on precious metals remain as fixed by a Decree of the 1st May, 1902. Under the provisions of this Decree, gold, silver, and platinum in assayed bars pay a tax equivalent to 5 per cent. of the certified value. Gold dust, unassayed platinum, platinum and silver, and gold and platinum in the form of jewellery, or coined into money, or in any other form not specified, pay 5 per cent. of their insurance value. Gold and silver ore are subject to a duty of 3 per cent. of their insurance value.

In cases where there are no documents certifying assay or insurance, the following duties are levied :—

					Pesos.	Cts.
Gold	...	...	...	Gramme	0	05
Platinum	...	...	...	"	0	04
Silver	...	...	...	"	0	02
Ore	...	...	...	Ton	5	00

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

COSTA RICA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of a Costa Rican Decree, dated the 19th March, establishing the rates of duty on the undermentioned articles as follows:—

	Duty per kilog. Cents.*
Glucose	5
Filberts, sweet almonds, pine-nut kernels, and nuts	10
Confectionery, sweetmeats, jellies, and preserved fruits	50

These duties were to be leviable from the date of the publication of the Decree except in the case of confectionery, &c., the duty on which is to come into force on the 1st July next.

* The real value of the Costa Rican colon (= 100 cents) may be taken as about 1s. 11d.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

CANADA.

The "Monetary Times" (Toronto) of 27th March reports that a new line of steamers, to be known as the **S.S. Line between Rotterdam and Canadian Ports.** Canadian Ocean and Inland Service, is to run this season between Rotterdam and Canadian ports. It will be composed of four vessels, two of which will run up the lakes to Port Arthur and Fort William, after making the round trip, while the other two will run as far as Montreal, where their cargoes will be transferred to vessels of the Canadian Lake and Ocean Navigation Company of Toronto.

It is stated that arrangements will be made for a general shipping business, but a large part of the service will consist in bringing German-made steel rails into Canada. The first cargo was to be taken in at Rotterdam on 15th April, and the intention is to make it a fortnightly service.

CAPE COLONY.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 24th March, publishes the following amended regulation to be substituted for the present sub-section 18, section 13, of the Table Bay Harbour Board Regulations:—

"Before any cargo is lightered, permission must be obtained from the General Manager, from whom lighters may be hired at rates to be agreed upon.

"When requested the Board will undertake all work in connection with lighterage, including receiving at ship's side,

Shipping and Transport.

granting receipt, and landing on quay, wharf or jetty, including the use of lighter and towage, at the following rates:—

	Per ton.
	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
(a) Coal in bags	*3 0
*When stevedoring is performed by the Board, otherwise 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	
(b) Coal in bulk... ..	
(c) Timber—deals, boards, planks, waggon wood, sleepers	4 0
(d) Grain and bagged cargo	3 6
(e) Iron—rod and bar	5 0
(f) All other cargo	3 6

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

In the report of the Civil Commissioner at Gwelo (Matabeleland) contained in the British South Africa Company's reports for 1900–02, it is stated that throughout the past year transport has been plentiful, and almost uniform rates with very slight fluctuations have been maintained. The following are average rates:—

Gwelo to Selukwe	2 <i>s.</i> to 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per 100 lbs.
„ „ Sebakwe	3 <i>s.</i> „ 4 <i>s.</i> „ „
Bulawayo to Gwelo... ..	5 <i>s.</i> „ 6 <i>s.</i> „ „
Salisbury „ „	9 <i>s.</i> „ 10 <i>s.</i> „ „

TURKEY.

In his report for the year 1902 on the trade of Constantinople, the British Vice-Consul at that city warns merchants that the charges for storage in the Turkish Custom-house there are extremely high, and soon swallow up the value of the goods. Eight days are allowed the consignee from the date of arrival of goods. Beginning from the ninth day the Custom-house charges storage, called “ardieh,” at the following rate:—On packets weighing up to 4 cwts., $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* a day; from 4 to 8 cwts., 1*d.*; from 8 to 12 cwts., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; from 12 to 16 cwts., 2*d.*; from 16 cwts. to 1 ton, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; on packages weighing over 1 ton, 3*d.* a day. This charge is made for the first week, is doubled for the second, and trebled for the third, after which the goods may be left in the Custom-house at the triple rate for one year.

The Vice-Consul also reports that a Chamber of Shipping has lately been formed at Constantinople by the representatives of the steamship companies trading to that port, for the purposes of dealing with questions interesting foreign shipping in Turkey, making representations with regard to such interests to the local authorities and to the foreign missions, and arbitrating on disputes.

**Custom-house
Storage Charges
at Constantinople.**

**Formation of
Chamber of
Shipping.**

Shipping and Transport.

TURKEY—*continued.*

With regard to the Bagdad Railway, the Vice-Consul states that the concession for the extension of the railway from Konia to Bagdad and the Persian Gulf was granted to the German Anatolian Railway Company two years ago; but the construction was delayed owing to the difficulty of finding security for the kilometric guarantee to which the Turkish Government had pledged itself. The difficulty has now been arranged by the convention. The Turkish Government will hand over to the railway company the bonds of a loan, bearing interest at 4 per cent. The railway company will issue the bonds and pay itself for the expense of constructing and working the line.

The convention consists of 46 articles.

Article 35 deals with the guarantee assigned by the Ottoman Government for the service of the loan, and concludes as follows:—

“In addition, the Anatolian Railway Company (Bagdad line) on its side, appropriates the line from Konia to the Persian Gulf, with its branches and rolling-stock, as security to the holders of the above loans. It appropriates in like manner and for the same object its portion of receipts from this line after the payment of working expenses, but *the holders of the loans shall have no right to any voice in the management of the company.*”

Various schemes have been proposed for connecting the terminus of the Oriental Railway at Stambul with that of the Anatolian Railway at Haïdar Pasha by a bridge across the Bosphorus or by a steam ferry to carry the trains. But nothing has been decided or rather no decision is known. The Tariff of quay charges has been drawn up and submitted by the Anatolian Railway Company to the Turkish Government and is now under consideration.

This Tariff may be made a powerful lever to help the German import trade into Asia Minor, for all goods sent into the interior by this line must pass over the Haïdar Pasha quay and a Tariff of through rates from inland towns in Germany to inland towns in Asia Minor, to include quay dues, might easily be framed in such a manner as heavily to handicap British goods. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,950.*)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—PORTO RICO.

The Board of Trade have received from H.M. Consul at Porto Rico a copy of the rules and regulations for the government of the docks and harbours in Porto Rico, as amended on the 3rd June, 1902.

**Dock and
Harbour
Regulations.**

These may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

*Shipping and Transport.***CUBA.**

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Havana, forwarding copy and translation of the Law fixing the tariff of fees leviable by Cuban Consular Officers abroad, which was published in the Cuban "Official Gazette" of 19th February last.

It should be noted that pending the appointment of Cuban Consular Officers in the United Kingdom, the provisions of the Law will not be applicable to British ports.

The full text of the law may be seen by persons interested on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

COLOMBIA.

With reference to the notice published on p. 598 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 25th September, 1902, a despatch dated 13th February has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Legation at Bogota, stating that the Colombian Government have received information that President Castro has decreed a renewal of commercial relations with that republic, and has opened the River Zulia. In consequence of this a Decree has been promulgated at Bogota, which re-establishes the Cucuta Custom-house and opens the port to traffic.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.**AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—QUEENSLAND.**

The Board of Trade have received from the office of the Agent-General for Queensland a communication stating that the gold returns of that State for the month of March last were as follows, the figures for March, 1902, being added for purposes of comparison :—

—					March, 1902.	March, 1903.
Ore crushed	...	...	...	...	77,100 tons	71,800 tons
Total yield	...	...	...	...	60,300 ounces	74,900 ounces

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

NORTH-WESTERN RHODESIA.

In his report* for the year 1901-02, Mr. R. T. Coryndon, Administrator of North-Western Rhodesia, writes:—

Copper and Iron Discoveries. "As regard minerals, I am pleased to be able to report that Mr. George Grey, who is in charge of the Tanganyika Concessions Company's expedition, and is now working at Kansanshi at the head waters of the Lunga river, has expressed his satisfaction with the discoveries of the expedition referred to. There are very large old workings of copper, and the ore appears to be of a good quality. The workings extend over a wide area, and there is no doubt but that that district will become, in the future, a very wealthy one. I regard these discoveries as of great importance. . . .

"Iron is shown in enormous quantities in many districts. In the neighbourhood of Lealui, among the sand belts and far from any visible rock formation of any kind, and south-east of Lealui in the Matotela country, almost every valley and stream valley has a deposit of soft red hæmatite ore; it is dug up without any difficulty from canoes in two to four feet of water. In the Matotela country almost every village has its bellows and native forge, and the hoes, spear-heads, and ironwork generally shows the ore to be of excellent quality. In the neighbourhood of the falls every village has a heap of iron slag and melted cinders, partly hidden by grass and rubbish, showing where the crude smelting furnaces stood when the Batoka country was heavily populated; and the existence of this great quantity of raw iron in the immediate neighbourhood of the falls, with the illimitable power available, opens the probability of great iron foundry shops in the future Livingstone."

* Contained in the reports of the Administration of Rhodesia recently issued by the British South Africa Company.

SPAIN.

With reference to the particulars given in his last annual report (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,771*) relative to the iron mines in the Corunna district, the Acting British Consul at Corunna, in a recent despatch to the Foreign Office, reports that the first cargo of iron ore from the mines at Baamonde was to be sent to Corunna for shipment on the 11th April last, and from that date regular quantities were to be received from these mines.

He adds that this is apparently the first serious attempt to develop the iron mines and make Corunna the port of shipment.

According to a recent report by the United States Consul at Malaga, a rich vein of oxide of iron discovered lately near the city of Jaen in the province of that name, about 85 miles from Malaga, is

**Iron Oxide
Discovery.**

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

being worked by the *Compania Mineralurgica*. A plant for preparing the mineral for marketing among manufacturers of red pigments, has been established on the outskirts of Malaga. This is claimed to be the only deposit in Spain outside of a small one near Santander. The crude mineral is crushed, cleaned by washing and finally dried in kilns. The value of the crude mineral last year was 50 pesetas (28s. 4d.) per short ton (of 2,000 lbs.) at Malaga, while the prepared product was invoiced at double this price. Exports are being made to the United States, though England is the largest market for it.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York) of 4th April publishes the following figures of the mineral production of Tennessee from advance figures supplied by the Commissioner of Labour, Statistics, and Mines:—

Mineral Production of Tennessee.
Barytes.—In 1902 there were 3,255 short tons (of 2,000 lbs.) of barytes produced. Only one mine was operated during the year. There are mines at Cleveland, Sweetwater, and Madisonville; also at Sinking Springs, in Sevier County, and a larger production is expected this year.

Iron ore.—The output of iron ore in 1902 included 300,627 tons of brown hematite and 288,243 tons of red hematite; a total of 588,870 long tons (of 2,240 lbs.).

Phosphates.—The total production of phosphates in the State of Tennessee in 1902 was 454,078 long tons (of 2,240 lbs.). The total value was 1,341,161 dols., an average of 2.95 dols. per ton at mines.

Of the phosphate mined, 347,078 tons came from the Mount Pleasant region. Of this 105,530 tons were exported. The average prices realised in this field were 2.90 dols. per ton for phosphate rock shipped to domestic points, and 3.25 dols. for rock exported.

MEXICO.

H.M. Consul at Mexico City in his recent report, after giving a list of the minerals found in Mexico, with the principal localities where the more important ones are mined, writes:—

Mineral Statistics unobtainable.
"I have had several letters asking for statistics as to the output of the mines of Mexico, the quality of the ores, the methods used in reducing the metals, the names and addresses of the different mining companies and even the history of the mining of various precious metals.

"As to the output of the different mines I have found it quite impossible to obtain even an approximation."

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

MEXICO—continued.

Further on in his report the Consul states that the number of smelting works in Mexico is increasing notably. In addition to the immense smelters at Aguascalientes, Monterey and San Luis Potosi, new works are being built in Guaymas, Avino, Tepeyanualco, Viesca and Saltillo, each of which will cost over 200,000 dols. (40,000*l.*), and, excepting the Avino works, were to be finished and ready to begin smelting in January last. The erection of an immense smelter in Monterey in connection with the large foundry has already commenced, and is to cost 500,000 dols. (100,000*l.*). And to all these must be added the big smelter about to be built by the Yaqui Smelting and Refining Company in the Ures district, Sonora.

With regard to coal the Consul points out that coal is not considered a metal and does not come under the mining law. Only in one or two places are the deposits worked, as in the State of Coahuila.

Native coal is used on some of the railways, notably by the Inter-oceanic. Most of the coal in Mexico is lignite of poor quality and the deposits are characteristically pockety. The Sonora deposits, when the railway communication is complete, will enter into competition with British Columbia coal. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,951.*)

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

BRAZIL.

The "Diario Oficial" of Brazil of 26th March contains a copy of the report to be presented to the general meeting of shareholders of the "Alliança" Spinning and Weaving Company, Rio de Janeiro, on 28th of the said month. A copy of the "Diario" containing the above may be seen on application by those interested at the Commercial Intelligence branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (except Saturday, when the Branch closes at 1 p.m.).

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 18th April were as follow:—

Corn Prices.	Wheat	...	...	...	...	25s. 6d.
	Barley	...	...	...	...	21s. 6d.
	Oats	...	...	...	...	17s. 3d.

For further particulars see p. 185.

*Agriculture.***UNITED KINGDOM—continued.**

Statements are published on pp. 186-7, showing the quantities of **Imports of Agricultural Produce.** the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the weeks ended the 11th and 18th April, as well as of the imports during the corresponding weeks of 1902.

BRITISH INDIA.

According to "Capital" (Calcutta), in the course of his address at the general meeting of the Bank of Calcutta, Ltd., held recently, the chairman, Mr. **Cultivation of Jute in Bengal.** David Yule, remarked that the absence of expansion in the cultivation of jute in Bengal requires investigation. The cultivators, enriched by the high prices of past years, do not care to bestir themselves to meet the growing requirements of manufacturers, and the result of this apathy is a permanently high average cost and panic prices when rumours of a short crop get abroad. The present situation opens a large field for the employment and settlement of families from famine-stricken districts, and the subject is worthy of more attention than it has received.

With regard to the question of distributing Indian tea in foreign markets, Mr. Yule stated that until a few years ago London buyers alone attended the **Foreign Tea Buyers at Calcutta.** Calcutta auction rooms, but now there are many representatives of other markets, and this past season sellers welcomed the presence of direct orders from Russia.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—NEW SOUTH WALES.

The "Government Gazette" of New South Wales for the 3rd March publishes regulations, approved and adopted by the Minister of Mines and Agriculture, for **Cold Storage Regulations.** handling and otherwise preparing goods for export, together with the scale of charges for storage at the Government Cold Storage Depot.

The officers of the depot undertake, subject to certain conditions, to receive, grade, pack, brand, store, and freeze certain classes of produce, and deliver the completed crates of goods to the ship's side and obtain shipping receipt.

Particulars of the grading and of the distinguishing marks given to the various qualities are also contained in the "Gazette," which can be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

*Agriculture.***BRITISH WEST INDIES.**

The "Agricultural News" (Barbados), the organ of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, states in its issue of the 28th March, that great interest is being shown in the schemes for re-establishing the cotton industry in the West Indies. In Barbados several acres of land have already been planted in cotton, and a Bill for the protection and regulation of the sale of cotton has passed the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council. Besides this, the Legislature has granted a sum of 250*l.* from the Public Treasury to be placed at the disposal of Dr. Morris, the Commissioner of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies.

The "Agricultural News" observes that the prizes offered by the British Cotton-Growing Association, combined with the freight reduction agreed to by the Harrison, Royal Mail and Leyland Lines, should greatly encourage those who are disposed to take up cotton growing.

The pamphlet on cotton cultivation in the West Indies (referred to in the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 19th March, p. 599) recommends Sea Island cotton for cultivation in the West Indies, side by side with the best varieties of upland cotton—not necessarily in adjoining fields, but each in its own locality, according to the character of the soil and climate. Although the Committee of the British Cotton-Growing Association recommends that seed of upland American or similar classes be used, it is stated on local authority that it is only in rather dry districts with thin soil that upland cotton gives more satisfactory results than Sea Island. Experience at Carriacou and at St. Lucia appears to point in this direction. On the other hand, in many districts of Barbados, Antigua and St. Kitts, where the soil generally is not only richer but more highly cultivated, it is probable that Sea Island cotton could be advantageously grown.

GERMANY.

According to statistics published in the "Reichsanzeiger," the quantity of raw sugar produced in Germany during the period from 1st August to 31st March last, being the first eight months of the 1902-3 sugar campaign, was 1,485,081 metric tons as compared with 1,995,800 tons produced during the corresponding period of the previous sugar campaign. The quantity of refined sugar produced increased from 938,272 metric tons during the period, August to March, 1902, to 976,432 metric tons during the period, August to March, 1903. The total sugar output in Germany during the period from 1st August, 1902, to 31st March, 1903, reduced to terms of raw sugar, amounted to 1,686,551 metric tons.

NOTE.—Metric ton = 1 000 kilogs. = 2,204 lbs. avoirdupois.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

A report published in the "Labour Gazette" of the 15th April, based on 3,268 returns, viz.: 2,046 from
State of the Labour Market in March, 1903.* Employers, or their Associations, 1,157 from Workmen and Trade Unions, and 65 from other sources, states that employment was on the whole better in March than in February, owing partly to seasonal improvements in certain industries, but it continues to be worse than a year ago.

In the 226 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 559,129, making returns, 24,096 (or 4·3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 4·8 per cent. in February, and 3·7 per cent. in the 224 Trade Unions, with a membership of 551,270, from which returns were received for March, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of March during the past decade was 4·3.

* For principal contents of the "Labour Gazette," see p. 188.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 16th April was
Cotton Statistics. 90,762 and the number imported during the 16 weeks ended the 16th April was 1,686,006. As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 16th April, 8,377 bales, and for the 16 weeks, 153,092.

For further details see p. 185.

CAPE COLONY.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are in receipt from the Controller of Customs, Cape Town, of a communication in reply to an enquiry relative to the requirements to be complied with as regards the marking of food-stuffs imported into Cape Colony.
Marking of Food-stuffs Imported: Butter, Margarine, &c.

The Collector of Customs states that the importation of food-stuffs is regulated under Act 5 of 1890, entitled an Act "To make provision for the sale of Food and Drugs in a pure state and to prevent the Adulteration of Seeds."

A copy of Section 23 of the said Act, dealing with the marking of cases containing butter, margarine, &c., may be seen by persons interested on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., on any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Miscellaneous.

NATAL.

The following announcement by His Excellency the Governor of Natal, respecting the appointment of a Trade Commission, appeared in the "Natal Government Gazette" of 10th March:—

Appointment of a Trade Commission. "Whereas it is deemed desirable that information be obtained as to the volume of trade which is likely to pass through the several ports of South Africa for the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, and that a Commission should be appointed for the purpose of collecting such information:

"Now, therefore, I appoint Sir William Arbuckle, John Nicol, and James Henderson to be my Commissioners for the purpose of visiting the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, with a view to obtaining the fullest possible information—from public and private sources—as to the probable demands in the near future, and for a period, if possible, of not less than five years, for all goods and articles of commerce which are likely to be imported through the various South African ports, including those not only of the British Colonies, but also the Portuguese port at Delagoa Bay.

"For your guidance in the discharge of the duty hereby entrusted to you, instructions will be given to you on the subject by the Prime Minister of this Colony."

TRANSVAAL.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are in receipt of a communication from Mr. John Buchan, Secretary to Lord Milner, in reply to an enquiry relative to the requirements to be complied with as regards the marking of foodstuffs imported into the Transvaal.

Merchandise Marks. Mr. Buchan states that there are no such requirements to be complied with. There is no "Merchandise Marks Act" in force in the Colony, and no Customs law or regulations on the subject. After importation, however, goods are subject to Law No. 29 of 1896, "Adulterated and Tainted Food Stuffs' Act." Article 6 says: "The word 'adulteration' in this law shall be taken to mean the act of mixing, or adding, any substance deleterious to health, or done with the object of increasing or deteriorating or concealing the quantity."

Mr. Buchan adds that the selling of goods under false description is illegal at Common Law.

*Miscellaneous.***NEW ZEALAND.**

A recent issue of the "New Zealand Trade Review" contained the following comparative table, showing the value of imports into the various ports of New Zealand during the last three years, based on official returns :—

Imports.

Ports.	1900.	1901.	1902.
North Island—	£	£	£
Auckland	2,508,549	2,851,552	3,068,123
Wellington	2,565,626	2,858,807	2,786,319
Other North Island Ports	498,395	516,217	491,204
Total North Island...	5,572,570	6,226,576	6,345,646
South Island—			
Dunedin	2,080,847	2,111,764	1,935,995
Lyttelton	1,719,489	2,063,666	1,741,627
Other South Island Ports	746,769	840,269	797,991
Total South Island...	4,547,145	5,015,699	4,475,613
Specie to all ports	438,770	464,499	369,685
Parcels post to all ports	87,662	109,683	123,912
Total Colony	£ 10,646,107	11,816,457	11,314,856

The following table, showing the values of the principal classes of produce exported from New Zealand during the years ended 31st December, 1901 and 1902, is taken from the same source :—

Exports.

	1901.	1902.
	£	£
Wool	3,699,000	3,355,000
Meats	2,369,000	2,889,000
Gold	1,764,000	1,951,000
Butter	882,000	1,206,000
Grain	1,285,000	786,000
Tallow	352,000	550,000
Hides and skins	405,000	534,000
Hemp (New Zealand)	196,000	534,000
Kauri gum	446,000	450,000
Timber	295,000	208,000
Coal	142,000	154,000
Cheese	239,000	164,000
Live-stock	17,000	103,000
Other New Zealand produce	611,000	602,000
Total	£ 12,692,000	13,486,000

Miscellaneous.

SWEDEN.

The United States Consul at Gothenburg reports that Swedish manufacturers are following the example of other countries and combining to prevent excessive competition and to work more effectively for export. Agreements have been made between joinery factories, lumber companies, match factories, &c., and the latest is the combination of several glass works, with head office in Stockholm. It involves eight glass works producing crystal glass, or table glassware, one of which is situated in Norway. The stock already paid for amounts to 1,625,000 kroner (90,277*l.*).

The Consul also states that, according to newspaper reports, eight of the ten Swedish works producing window glass have been combined into one concern. The operation of the glass works at Nol, near Gothenburg, has been stopped, and the trust will pay the owners of Nol glass works an annual compensation of 35,000 kroner (1,944*l.*) for ten years, on condition that no window glass is manufactured there. This arrangement has been made in order to reduce the yearly output of window glass to 140,000 cases; formerly, the production amounted to upwards of 200,000 cases per annum.

GERMANY.

According to Kuhlow's (Berlin), of the 1st April, great interest is being taken in the organisation of the Fifth International Congress for Applied Chemistry which is to be held in Berlin during the first week of June next. Enclosed with the official invitation, which is written in English, French and German, is a *brochure* containing all necessary information for participators in the Congress, application forms, order of business, arrangements for festivities, &c., also in the three above-mentioned languages. The Bureau of the Congress is in Charlottenburg (Berlin), Marchstrasse, 21.

SWITZERLAND.

It appears, from statistics published in the "Feuille Fédérale Suisse" of the 8th April, that the number of commercial travellers in Switzerland, both of Swiss and foreign nationality, has shown an increase each year since 1893, excepting for the period 1894-96, during which the figures experienced a falling-off, principally as regards Austria and Italy.

Miscellaneous.

The following table shows the progress made since 1893 :—

Year.	Swiss.	Foreign.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
1893	16,171	5,145	21,316
1897	16,743	4,984	21,727
1900	21,202	5,635	26,837
1901	21,564	5,785	27,349
1902	22,822	6,531	29,353

Germany sends the greatest number of travellers and France, Italy and Austria-Hungary come next, their respective shares in the total being shown in the following table :—

Year.	Germany.	France.	Italy.	Austria-Hungary.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1893	3,791	673	256	175
1897	3,257	1,152	282	163
1900	3,848	1,145	332	203
1901	3,937	1,182	355	204
1902	4,463	1,294	403	232

The annexed statement indicates the principal branches of industry represented by these travellers in 1902, the foreign representatives only being taken into consideration :—

Textiles	1,829	Drugs, chemicals, &c.	361
Food, drink, and tobacco	789	Leather and leather goods	333
Metals	757	Wood and manufactures of	258
Books, &c.	729	Jewellery, clocks, &c.	237
Hair brushes, pencils, sponges, &c.	428	Ironmongery	223

UNITED STATES—PHILIPPINES.

The following are the principal provisions of the Act, containing thirteen sections, recently passed in the United States of America, "to establish a standard of value and to provide for a coinage system in the Philippine Islands" :—

Act establishing
a Standard of
Value and pro-
viding for a
Coinage System.

Section I.—The unit of value in the Islands is to be a gold "Peso," consisting of 12 9/10

Miscellaneous.

grains of gold, 9/10ths fine, as soon as the local Government shall have coined and ready for, or in, circulation, not less than 5,000,000 of the silver "Peso" provided for in the Act, and the gold coins of the United States at the rate of one dollar for two of the "Pesos" authorised by the Act to be coined, shall be legal tender for all debts, public and private, in the Islands.

Section II.—In addition to the coinage authorised for use in the Philippines by the Act of July 1st, 1902, the local Government is authorised to coin to an amount not exceeding 75,000,000 "Pesos," a silver coin of the denomination of one "Peso," of the weight of 416 grains, the standard of which shall be such that of 1,000 parts by weight, 900 shall be of pure metal and 100 of copper.

Section III.—The silver Philippine "Peso" is to be legal tender in the Islands for all debts, unless specifically provided otherwise by the contract. Debts contracted prior to 31st December, 1903, may be paid in the legal tender currency existing in the Islands at the time of making the contracts, unless otherwise expressly provided by contract.

Section IV. provides for the coinage of subsidiary coins, and

Section V. makes such coins legal tender in the Islands to the amount of 10 dols.

Section VI.—The coinage authorised by the Act is subject to the conditions and limitations of the provisions of the Act of July 1st, 1902, except as otherwise provided, and in order to maintain the value of the silver Philippine "Peso" at the rate of one gold "Peso" the local Government may issue temporary certificates of indebtedness, bearing interest at not over 4 per cent. per annum, payable at periods from 3 to 12 months, and redeemable in United States gold coin or lawful money of the Islands. The amount of such certificates outstanding at one time shall not exceed 10,000,000 dols., or 20,000,000 "Pesos."

Section VII.—The Mexican silver dollar at present in use in the Philippines and the silver coins heretofore issued by the Spanish Government for use in the same shall be receivable for public dues at a rate to be fixed by proclamation of the Civil Governor, until a date, not earlier than January 1st, 1904, also to be fixed by proclamation of the Civil Governor, when such coins shall cease to be so receivable.

Section VIII.—The Treasurer of the Philippine Islands is authorised to receive deposits of the silver coins of one "Peso" authorised by the Act, and to issue silver certificates therefor, the coins so deposited to be retained and held for the payment of such certificates, such certificates to be receivable for all public dues.

*Miscellaneous.***BRAZIL.**

The following statement, showing the value of the exports, exclusive of specie, from Brazil in 1901 and 1902 is based on figures published in the "Brazilian Review" for the 17th March, 1903 :—

	1901.	1902.
	£	£
Coffee	23,979,000	20,835,000
Rubber	8,490,000	7,115,000
Tobacco	1,655,000	1,206,000
Sugar	1,551,000	936,000
Maté	936,000	1,084,000
Cocoa	847,000	1,022,000
Cotton	451,000	1,204,000
Other articles	2,713,000	3,543,000
Total	40,622,000	36,445,000

ARGENTINA.

In the "Boletin Oficial" of Argentina of 11th March a Decree is published, to come into force three months from 5th idem, requiring all alcohol intended for illuminating, heating, and preparation of varnish to be denatured by the use of the following formula, viz. :—

Pyridine, 45 per cent.

Acetone (commercial), 45 per cent.

Eucalyptus essence (commercial), 10 per cent.

The alcohol is then denatured by an addition of 1 part of the mixture so obtained to 50 parts of alcohol.

When, however, special systems of illuminating require for the best results of their plans the use of certain formulæ, the National Chemical Office will examine experimentally the necessity for the modification of the general formula just expressed and will report to the "Ministerio de Hacienda," who will decide.

The following table, showing the value of the imports into Rosario in the year 1902, with comparative figures for the preceding year, is taken from a report recently received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Rosario :—

*Miscellaneous.***Imports into Rosario.**

Articles.	1901. (Fair harvest.)	1902. Bad harvest.)
	Gold Dollars.	Gold Dollars.
Provisions	1,665,648	1,425,129
Wines and spirits	508,343	329,156
Tobacco	60,721	74,437
Spun, woven goods, &c.	896,082	735,251
Clothing, &c.	224,388	122,088
Chemical products, drugs, &c.	423,577	361,181
Lumber, &c.	1,071,258	638,854
Stationery, &c....	165,000	129,392
Tanned leather, &c.	11,174	8,393
Hardware, agricultural implements, &c.	2,743,789	1,213,113
Building materials, paints, oils, varnishes, &c.	2,115,801	1,986,050
Metal ware	136,724	84,710
Glass and crockery ware	237,914	115,987
Combustibles, lamp oil, &c.	657,217	627,693
Sundries	293,844	208,952
Totals	11,211,480	8,060,386
Equivalent in sterling at 5 dols. to the £	2,242,296	1,612,077

Imports for the year 1902, as compared with 1901, show a falling-off as demonstrated by the table, of 630,220/. This difference is attributed to the almost total failure of last season's crops by drought, &c., which caused many failures and restricted credit, so that merchants only imported on a small scale during the year.

The Consul adds that the table does not include large quantities of merchandise purchased in Buenos Aires, where better terms as regards payment, &c., are obtainable, and of which it is impossible to obtain reliable statistics.

The following table shows the value of the exports from Rosario in the years 1901 and 1902:—

Exports from Rosario.

	1901.	1902.
	Gold Dollars.	Gold Dollars.
Agricultural products (<i>chiefly maize, linseed and wheat</i>)	20,461,231	9,836,823
Industrial products (<i>chiefly unrefined sugar, bran and flour</i>)	3,463,556	3,736,765
Forest products (<i>chiefly quebracho logs</i>)	396,048	488,213
Mineral products	77,895	86,227
Animal products (<i>chiefly hides and wool</i>)... ..	3,866,589	3,816,255
Totals	28,265,319	17,913,783
Equivalent in sterling at 5 dols. to the £	5,653,063	3,582,756

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 16 Weeks ended 16th April, 1903.

	Week ended 16th April, 1903.	16 Weeks ended 16th April, 1903.	Week ended 16th April, 1903.	16 weeks ended 16th April, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	50,873	1,350,020	3,201	71,165
Brazilian	15,260	81,080	2,742	14,184
East Indian	9,281	31,879	670	10,370
Egyptian	12,629	207,263	1,519	54,116
Miscellaneous	2,719	15,764	245	3,257
Total	90,762	1,686,006	8,377	153,092

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 18th April, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

		Average Price.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
Week ended 18th April, 1903		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Corresponding week in—							
1896		25	6	21	0	13	11
1897		26	6	20	7	16	7
1898		36	1	28	3	18	4
1899		24	8	25	2	17	1
1900		26	0	24	9	17	3
1901		26	8	25	7	18	8
1902		27	7	27	1	21	1

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 11th April, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 11th Apr., 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	11,789	6,520
Sheep and lambs	"	9,926	5,881
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	589	716
Fresh meat :—			
Beef... ..	Cwts.	71,845	86,816
Mutton	"	78,972	68,724
Pork	"	9,778	9,576
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	87,684	111,286
Beef	"	351	4,484
Hams	"	22,278	26,818
Pork	"	8,881	8,098
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	15,888	19,769
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	13,888	20,485
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	69,891	81,978
Margarine	"	19,055	26,908
Cheese	"	16,558	28,206
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	151	160
" cream	"	95	71
" condensed	"	14,918	21,661
" preserved, other kinds	"	851	20
Eggs	Grt. Hndr.	285,478	311,855
Poultry and game	Value £	22,974	10,853
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	1,598	1,986
Lard	"	48,786	41,088
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,278,822	1,954,900
Wheat-meal and flour	"	419,901	257,700
Barley	"	183,892	480,200
Oats	"	97,872	219,500
Peas	"	86,968	23,800
Beans	"	15,407	7,400
Maize or Indian corn	"	957,685	556,800
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	48,188	27,007
Apricots and peaches	"	21	—
Bananas	Bunches.	29,600	80,660
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	765	270
Lemons	"	27,108	27,804
Oranges	"	175,528	160,004
Pears	"	267	101
Plums	"	15	—
Strawberries	"	—	8
Unenumerated	"	2,658	1,088
Hay	Tons.	2,873	8,554
Straw	"	1,725	1,772
Hops	Cwts.	1,170	594
Lucist beans... ..	"	12,800	10,448
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	182,846	135,559
Potatoes	Cwts.	78,577	69,461
Tomatoes	"	19,867	14,895
Unenumerated	Value £	10,890	17,815
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	910	2,481
Preserved by canning	"	1,920	2,878

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom—(cont.).
Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 18th April, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 18th April, 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number	7,018	4,498
Sheep and lambs	"	9,856	8,886
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	781	884
Fresh meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	88,070	68,749
Mutton	"	79,315	66,854
Pork	"	10,952	18,457
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	118,111	114,948
Beef... ..	"	4,926	2,868
Hams	"	27,607	29,620
Pork	"	4,895	3,720
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	18,841	16,314
Meat, preserved, otherwise than by salting	"	10,458	7,824
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	72,562	71,914
Margarine	"	17,054	18,787
Cheese	"	17,896	84,475
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	90	228
" cream	"	83	60
" condensed	"	14,253	12,654
" preserved, other kinds	"	91	47
Eggs	Grt. Hndr.	297,864	294,244
Poultry and game	Value £	12,080	15,110
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	884	5,690
Lard	"	50,950	48,095
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,241,121	884,446
Wheat-meal and flour	"	478,549	193,560
Barley	"	165,685	105,604
Oats... ..	"	285,701	288,400
Peas	"	22,248	88,384
Beans	"	14,418	14,041
Maise or Indian corn	"	688,601	618,977
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	40,635	34,482
Apricots and peaches	"	—	—
Bananas	Bunches	68,078	64,423
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	257	836
Lemons	"	11,811	18,585
Oranges	"	171,410	174,100
Pears	"	701	868
Plums	"	—	10
Strawberries	"	1	3
Unenumerated	"	68	2,049
Hay	Tons	4,379	9,536
Straw	"	768	1,661
Hops	Cwts.	489	1,080
Locust beans... ..	"	7,180	24,910
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels	208,192	166,211
Potatoes	Cwts.	83,960	49,282
Tomatoes	"	35,980	18,429
Unenumerated	Value £	11,149	16,559
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	1,169	882
Preserved by canning	"	3,386	4,226

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of March, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1901, in two Volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 7d. for the first, and 4s. 10d. for the second Volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and, in the second volume, details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the Trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 15th April:—State of the Labour Market in March; Wages Agreement in the South Wales Coal Trade; Labour Legislation in Holland; Report of the American Coal Strike Commission; New German Merchant Shipping Acts; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Prices of Coal and Iron; New Industrial Organisations Registered in 1902; Report of Canadian Department of Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORT.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in a Consular Report of the Annual Series issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,953. Trade of the Mærea and the Provinces of Acarnania and Ætolia, 1902.

Trade depression due to failure of currant and other crops.

Table showing number and nationality of, and amount of, cargo taken by vessels com-

peting with British shipping during the year 1899—1902.

Yield of currants and estimated value in 1902 as compared with 1901.

Improved trade likely in

Government Publications.

sultanas, figs, tobacco, and in valonea for tanning.

British imports holding their position, but more commercial travellers needed.

Demand for Newfoundland pickled salmon, Labrador cod-fish, and jute bags.

Comparison of rates of exchange in 1901 and 1902.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORT.

A report from the following British Colony has been issued by the Colonial Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," viz.:—

Cyprus. Report for 1901-02.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1902. Return of Prices of Certain Classes of Irish Agricultural Products and Live Stock for the year 1902. [Cd. 1522.] Price 1s. 5d.

This return, which is issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, contains particulars of the average prices of cereals, dairy produce, meat, cattle, &c., in the various provinces of Ireland during each quarter of last year. Comparative tables and diagrams showing the variations in price for a series of years, are also included.

*Government Publications.***Treaty Series.**

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.	Price.
EUROPE—	
Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries... .. ½d.
France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar 1d.
AMERICA, NORTH—	
United States of America :	
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska ½d.
ASIA—	
Corea :	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field ½d.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½d.
378	British Guiana	2½d.
379	Mauritius	3½d.
380	Basutoland	3d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2½d.
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½d.
—	Cyprus	3d.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1d. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.

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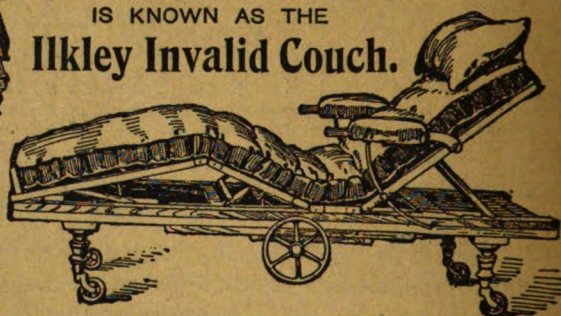
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THE



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(With which is Incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

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APRIL 30, 1903.

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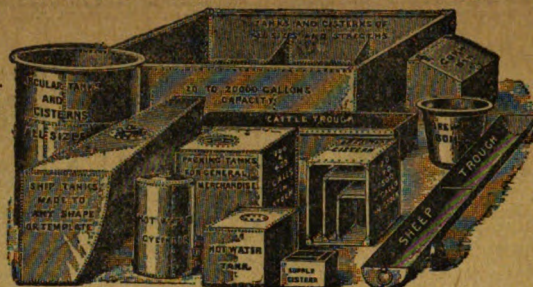
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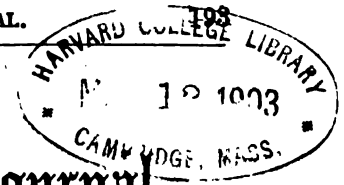
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Telegraphic Addresses—**GARDNER** { **LIVERPOOL.**



THE

Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. XLI.]

April 30, 1903.

[No. 335.]

In a notice on p. 240 will be found a statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade having special regard to the recent transfer to the Board of Trade of the Imperial Institute. The main office of the Branch is at present at No. 50, Parliament Street, S.W., with a temporary enquiry office at 49, Eastcheap, E.C., the City Branch of the Imperial Institute.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. viii. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office, on pp. 238-9.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on pp. 235-7.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: WAR OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for War is prepared to receive tenders for the purchase of such quantities of condemned Royal Irish Constabulary bedding as may be for disposal during the period of three years from 1st June, 1903, at the Constabulary Stores in Ireland.

**Tenders for Sale
of Condemned
Royal Irish
Constabulary
Bedding.**

Forms of tender and conditions of contract may be obtained on personal application, or by letter addressed to the Director of Army Contracts, War Office, Pall Mall, S.W., or the Inspector-General of Royal Irish Constabulary, Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle, between the hours of 10 and 4 o'clock; and tenders will not be entertained unless made upon the forms so obtained. Specimens of the old bedding may be seen at the Royal

Openings for British Trade.

Irish Constabulary Depôt, Phoenix Park, Dublin, and at the Ordnance Office, Tower of London.

The tenders are to be delivered at the War Office, Pall Mall, London, S.W., by 12 o'clock noon, on Wednesday, the 13th May.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive

**Tenders for
Railway
Material.**

tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply lowsided waggons and laminated, &c., springs for the Indian State Railways.

The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 5th May, after which time no tender will be received.

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade to the effect

**Tenders for
Railway Material.**

that the Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared to receive

tenders for the supply of the following stores, viz.:—Sheffield tools, files, &c.; carriage door handles and hinges; cast-iron tank plates and sluice valves; wheels and axles; tie bars, gibs and cotters; brake rigging.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C.; on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned.

Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary to the Company, marked "Tender for Sheffield Tools, &c.," or, as the case may be, not later than 11 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, the 7th May.

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

TRINIDAD.

A communication has been received at the Board of Trade from the Collector of Customs at Port of Spain,

**Harbour
Improvements.**

enclosing a memorandum relating to certain proposed harbour improvements at that port.

Two schemes have been drawn up, the one which it is said is the more likely to be adopted, providing for a quay wall 2,500 ft. long, a basin 700 ft. wide and with a depth of 24 ft., an approach channel of the same depth and two miles long, 94 acres of reclamation, extensive sheds, three miles of railway line, and an electric power-house for supplying light and motive power for cranes, &c. The total cost would be 550,000*l.* In addition, it is proposed to give accommodation for the bunkering of steamers, and to purchase a floating dock sufficient to lift vessels of 4,000 tons light displacement.

Openings for British Trade.

EGYPT.

With reference to the announcement which appeared on p. 4 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 2nd April respecting a call for tenders for an electric power supply at Ghiza, given on the authority of the Egyptian "Journal Officiel," it may be noted that the "Journal Officiel" of 18th April reproduces the original notice and in the same terms, but with the exception that the date up to which tenders will be received has been altered to the 15th June next.

Such particulars respecting the concession as are contained in the "Journal Officiel" may be seen on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

RUSSIA.

In regard to the projected junction line between the Siberian railway and the Northern Russian railway system, in connection with which four sets of plans have been under consideration by a Commission of the Russian Ministry of Finance, the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the 3rd (16th) April states that one of these schemes has now been finally adopted.

It may be recalled that the Urals are at present crossed by two railways—in the north near Kuschva station on the Perm line, and in the south near Zlatoust station on the Samara-Zlatoust line. Traffic at these points is already excessive, and it is stated that these lines would not be able to cope with the increased traffic likely to arise from the establishment of communication between the Siberian railway and the northern railway system of European Russia.

It has, therefore, been decided to adopt the plan for the construction of the line *via* Kurgan Shadrinsk Ekaterinburg Krasno-Ufinsk and Tcheptsy, with the proviso that the Kama is to be crossed at a point as far south as possible.

The cost of the continuation is estimated to be 75 million roubles, or about 8 millions sterling, the total distance of the line being 1,201 versts, or 800 miles, necessitating the construction of 956 verst, or 636 miles of new railway, and a bridge across the Kama.

It is considered that this project will be of advantage to agriculture, since the line traverses the most fertile regions, and also to the mineral industries of the Urals.

The same issue of the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" states that the route has now been traced for the projected extension of the Riasan Oural railway to Astrakhan, a distance of 522 versts, or 347 miles.

Openings for British Trade.

EASTERN SIBERIA.

On pp. 208-9 will be found an article on the opportunities for British trade in Eastern Siberia, in which the British Commercial Agent at Vladivostock calls attention to the opening in that part of Siberia for mining machinery, bricks and brick presses, fire bricks and fancy tiles, builders' ironmongery, carpenters' and blacksmiths' tools, galvanised iron, winding and hauling engines, boilers, light railways, briquette-making plant, coal and fire-arms.

List of Goods in Demand.

BELGIUM.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 18th April announces that tenders will be opened on the 20th May by the "Société National des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux," at No. 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels, for the construction of the local line from Bruges to Middelbourg and Aardenburg, and eventually of the junction line with the local lines from Bruges to Swevezele and from Bruges to L'Ecluse and Heyat.

The upset price of the work is 185,154 francs (7,406*l.*) and a deposit of 19,000 francs (760*l.*) is required. Tenders by registered letter must be addressed to the Director-General of the Company at the address given above, where they will be received not later than the 19th May. Plans, estimates, and conditions of contract may be seen at the Company's office and at the office of M. Van Aken, Rue Charles-le-Bon, Bruges.

The conditions of contract may be obtained on payment of 1 franc (10*d.*).

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 23rd April contains a Royal Order authorising the Ministry of Marine to carry out, without the formalities of calling for tenders, the acquisition of nickel-chrome steel plates for the armour plating to protect the 14 c.m. guns of the cruiser "Cataluña."

The same "Gaceta" contains a Royal Order authorising the War Office to acquire by direct negotiation for the Trubia factory 10,000 metric quintals of coal-coke, 2,000 metric quintals of coke-iron, and 100 metric quintals of ingots of lead.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 24th April contains an announcement calling for tenders, which will be opened at 11 a.m. 30 days from the publication of the notice, in the office of the Chief of the Telegraph Section of the Directorate-General

Tenders for Iron and Bronze Telegraph Wire.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—continued.

of Posts and Telegraphs, Carretas, 10, Madrid, but which must be presented 48 hours earlier, accompanied by proof of a deposit of 5 per cent. of the amount of the contract at upset prices, for the supply of 70 tons of galvanised iron wire and 12 tons of bronze wire, for the telegraph lines of the State.

Of the iron wire, 60 tons is to be of 4 mm. diameter, the upset price for which is 570 pesetas, or about 17*l.* per ton, and 10 tons is to be of 5 mm., upset price 545 pesetas, or about 16*l.* per ton.

Of the bronze wire, 8 tons is to be of 3 mm. diameter, and 4 tons of 2 mm., and the upset price for both of these sizes is 2,890 pesetas, or about 84*l.* per ton.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 25th April contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened at 1 p.m. on 30th June next, for the concession to construct and work a railway from Estella to Vitoria and Durango (now Los Martires), with a branch from Arroniz to Lerin, at the upset price of 3,468,811·76 pesetas, or about 101,279*l.* A provisional deposit of 10 per cent. of the upset price is required to qualify any tender. A copy of the plan and conditions of the concession (tariff, term of years, &c.) are to be seen at the Office of Concession and Construction of Railways, in the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce and Public Works, Madrid.

The "Gacetas" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

GREECE.

H.M. Consul at Patras reports that Labrador codfish is yearly growing more in favour with all classes in the province of Patras; owing to the difficulties of communication with the towns and villages of the mountainous districts of the interior, fresh fish cannot easily reach them, consequently codfish takes its place and is largely consumed during the times of fasting which are so frequent in Greece. Last year 282 tons were imported by steamer from the Labrador coast direct, and nearly 1,340 tons by eight sailing vessels. At the opening of the season 19*s.* per 100 lbs. c.i.f. were realised, and since then prices have gradually declined to 16*s.*, which should be a fairly remunerative price to shippers.

Labrador codfish suffers to some extent from the competition of French bounty fed fish, all arrivals in French bottoms receiving a drawback of 6*s.* 5*d.* per 100 lbs. The import duty is also heavy, amounting to about 4*s.* per 100 lbs.

Openings for British Trade.

GREECE—continued.

Pickled salmon, in tierces of 300 lbs. each, is also much esteemed. This comes from Newfoundland *via* Liverpool.
Pickled Salmon. Last year the catch having been small, importation only amounted to 150 tierces, which sold at from 5*l.* to 8*l.* per tierce, cost, freight and insurance. This quantity was quite inadequate for requirements, which amount annually to 300 to 400 tierces, and the market is quite bare of stock and would pay high rates for any prime fish offering: (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,953.*)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

In his recent report, the British Vice-Consul at Kansas City states that oilcloth and linoleums have been cleared at the Custom-house there to the extent of 1,015*l.*, and this is a trade which could well be pushed. Amongst the various floor coverings it is to be noted that whilst the extremely heavy duty upon woollen goods almost excludes the British carpet manufacturer from the market, there seems to be room for linoleums. The clearances of Japanese mattings for floor coverings are very large, but active pushing of floor coverings of British manufacture might readily develop an increased trade.

In seeds the total clearings have amounted to 600*l.* A good market should be developed in Scotch oats.
Scotch Oats. During the past year Russian wheat for seed has been largely imported, and a similar market should await Scotch oats. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,952.*)

ARGENTINA.

The "Diario Oficial" of Chile of 16th March contains a Decree, granting to Don J. J. Belaustegui permission to construct and work a metre gauge railway from the Cabrero station of the Central Railway, eastwards by the valley of the river Laja to the frontier of the Argentine Republic. Plant and machinery for the construction of the line and stations are declared free of Customs duties and will be carried over the State railways at a reduction of 50 per cent. from the Tariff rates. The Government makes a grant of 200,000*l.* to the company, payable, up to 120,000*l.*, at the rate of 1,000*l.* per kilometre opened for traffic, and the remaining 80,000*l.* upon completion of the work and its connection on Argentina territory with another line or lines which reach either Buenos Aires or Bahia Blanca.

Openings for British Trade.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS.**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

With reference to the notice on p. 199 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 29th January, and to previous notices respecting the exhibition to be held at St. Louis in 1904, it may be noted that the "London Gazette" of 24th April announces the appointment of a Royal Commission, whose duties will be to obtain and distribute full information as to the best mode by which the United Kingdom and the Colonies may be represented at the exhibition, to assist with advice and co-operation, and generally to promote the success of the exhibition.

Colonel C. M. Watson, C.B., C.M.G., is the secretary to the Commission, to whom any enquiries should be addressed, and from whom all particulars can be obtained by intending exhibitors. The offices of the Commission are at 47, Victoria Street, S.W.

GERMANY.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy and translation, transmitted by H.M. Minister at Dresden, of a prospectus of the German Towns Exhibition, to be held at Dresden from 20th May to the end of September next.

The particulars of the exhibition were forwarded to H.M. Minister by the Chief Burgomaster, not as requests to exhibit, but as invitations to British towns and local authorities to visit the exhibition.

Its objects, *inter alia*, are stated to be:—

(a) To show the condition of German towns at the beginning of the twentieth century, in respect of communications, lighting, street-making, drainage, bridges, harbours, municipal trading, finance, &c.

(b) To exhibit the productions of German manufacturers for the use of the local administrations, including machinery and technical objects and construction both above and below ground.

LUXEMBURG.

A despatch, dated 23rd April, has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at the Hague transmitting a copy of the programme of an international exhibition of agriculture and horticulture, which the "Cercle grand-ducal d'Agriculture et d'Horticulture du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg" is organising at Luxemburg on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. The exhibition will be open from the 29th August to the 7th September, 1903.

A copy of the programme of the exhibition may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Openings for British Trade.

BRAZIL.

The "Diario Official" of Brazil of the 5th April contains a decree opening a credit in the Ministry of Industry, Communications and Public Works, of 50,000 milreis, or about 2,500*l.*, to help or to promote, by the intermediary of the National Society for Agriculture, a competition or exhibition to be held in Rio de Janeiro of apparatus for use in the industrial applications of alcohol, with a view to making them commonly known in the country.

Alcohol Exhibition.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON FOOD SUPPLY IN TIME OF WAR.

The "London Gazette" of 28th April announces the appointment of a Royal Commission "to enquire into the conditions affecting the importation of food and raw material into the United Kingdom in time of war, and into the amount of the reserves of such supplies existing in the country at any given period, and to advise whether it is desirable to adopt any measures, in addition to the maintenance of a strong Fleet, by which such supplies can be better secured, and violent fluctuations avoided."

The full composition of the Commission is as follows:—

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T. (Chairman).

The Duke of Sutherland, K.G.

Lord Burghclere.

The Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P.

The Right Hon. J. L. Wharton, M.P.

Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard H. C. Noel, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.

Sir John Colomb, K.C.M.G., M.P.

Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G. (Comptroller-General, Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department, Board of Trade).

Sir H. Seton-Karr, C.M.G., M.P.

Mr. Henry H. Cunynghame, C.B. (Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Home Office).

Mr. E. Robertson, M.P.

Mr. A. Emmott, M.P.

Mr. John Wilson, M.P. (Mid Durham).

Professor Erskine Holland, D.C.L. (Professor of International Law, Oxford University).

Mr. A. S. Harvey (Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.).

Mr. J. E. Street (Chairman of Lloyds).

Lieut.-Col. R. Montgomery, V.D. (President of the Liverpool Corn Trade Association).

Mr. W. H. Clark, Board of Trade, will act as Secretary to the Commission.

TRADE OF THE ORANGE RIVER COLONY

SIX MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1902.

Referring to the table on p. 353 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th February, 1903, showing the value of the trade of the Orange River Colony during the quarter ended 30th September, 1902, the Board of Trade have received a copy of a return drawn up by the Collector of Customs at Bloemfontein, showing the value of the goods imported into and exported from the Colony during the quarter ended the 31st December, 1902, as compared with the corresponding period of 1901, from which the following table has been prepared:—

Imports into the Orange River Colony.

Articles.	Six Months ended 31st December, 1901.	Six Months ended 31st December, 1902.
	£	£
Articles of food and drink	86,000	183,000
Haberdashery	56,000	142,000
South African produce	59,000	76,000
Blankets	6,000	80,000
Cotton manufactures	17,000	58,000
Apparel and slops (<i>including hats</i>)	22,000	57,000
Leather manufactures:		
Boots and shoes and leatherware	15,000	45,000
Saddlery and harness	1,000	8,000
Hardware, brass and copperware, &c.	12,000	52,000
Wood, raw and manufactured (<i>includes furniture</i>)	5,000	52,000
Woollen manufactures	4,000	27,000
Corn and grain (<i>including rice</i>)	19,000	49,000
Provisions, oilman's stores, &c.	11,000	20,000
Cocoa, chocolate, confectionery, sweets, &c.	6,000	15,000
Clocks, watches, jewellery, and plated ware	6,000	9,000
Drugs and chemicals	8,000	11,000
Tobacco of all kinds	11,000	13,000
Iron, galvanised and corrugated	2,000	14,000
Stationery and fancy goods	4,000	8,000
Soap and candles	5,000	9,000
Vehicles:		
Bicycles and accessories	1,000	5,000
Other kinds of vehicles	1,000	7,000
Oils of all kinds	2,000	5,000
All other articles	51,000	96,000
Total imports	410,000	1,011,000

The total value of the goods exported from the Orange River Colony in the six months ended 31st December, 1902, was 98,000*l.*, as compared with 5,000*l.* in the corresponding period of the previous year. This advance is chiefly due to a revival in the export trade of wool and diamonds, the figures for 1902 being 50,000*l.* and 26,000*l.* respectively, as compared with nil in 1901. Of the total exports during the period under review, 67,000*l.* worth were sent to Cape Colony, 17,000*l.* to Natal, and 12,000*l.* worth to Basutoland, the remainder going to the Transvaal.

COUNTRY PRODUCE TRAFFIC ON THE UGANDA RAILWAY IN 1902.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a report by the Traffic Manager of the Uganda Railway on the country produce traffic for the half-year ended 31st December, 1902, with comparative figures for the first half-year, from which the following particulars have been taken:—

The quantities of each staple carried during each half of 1902 were as follow:—

	First half of 1902.	Second half of 1902.
	Tons.	Tons.
Beans	—	116
Coffee	10	30
Copra	100	27
Fresh fruit	42	11
Ghee	25	38
Grain	252	125
Ground nuts	—	9
Hides and skins	32	139
Ivory	47	32
Mats, native	—	33
Potatoes	110	244
Rubber	19	13
Salt, country	24	22
Sim-sim seed	—	17
Tobacco... ..	8	6
Vegetables	—	60
Total	669	922

Beans.—With the exception of the quantities despatched from Nairobi and an occasional lot from Lamoru and Kikuyu, the beans were consumed by fuel contractors' African labourers at the numerous depôts all over the line. The remainder from Nairobi, &c., were chiefly booked to Mombasa and Zanzibar. Enquiries have been received from Durban regarding beans, with a view to getting supplies for the native miners, and one sample consignment has been sent south, but, as in the case of Matama, the Customs duties and heavy railway charges in Natal may render a traffic in it impossible.

Coffee.—The increase is satisfactory, and as there are now several traders interesting themselves in this staple, and looking to the improved conditions of transport and development on the Lake generally, the figures must steadily increase. The Italian Trading Company have now a fair share of the coffee trade, and they ship it to Europe by the Austrian-Lloyd line of steamers.

Copra.—The importance of this staple is very small. The decrease is on account of the season of the year.

Country Produce Traffic on the Uganda Railway in 1902.

Fresh fruit.—The second half-year is not the fruit season, and this is the reason of the decrease.

Ghee.—This increase is satisfactory, and Indian ghee in Uganda will soon be a thing of the past. Supplies should also be sufficient for Zanzibar in the near future.

Grain.—The decrease is almost entirely due to the fact that the half-year under report is not the harvest season for the more important cereals. The localities in which crops are now being raised are steadily on the increase, so, therefore, the produce must increase and be to the future benefit of the railway.

Ground nuts.—Ground or earth nuts are largely grown in the districts around Lake Victoria Nyanza, and it is believed that a rapidly increasing quantity will soon be passing over the railway.

Hides and skins.—In the report for the first half of 1902, it was explained that restrictions on account of plague had practically stopped the trade in hides and skins. The marked increase is accounted for by the withdrawal of all restrictions, and the trade is likely to largely develop should further restrictions not come into force. It is almost entirely in the hands of the Italian Trading Company, who export the hides and skins by the Austrian-Lloyd boats.

Ivory.—Of the 31 tons 14 cwts. of ivory carried during the half-year, 23½ tons were from Port Florence, and the remainder from Naivasha, Nairobi, Londiani and Fort Ternan. On the half-year this shows a falling-off of about 15 tons, but for the whole year the decrease is only three tons as against 1901, while the average lead and freight was considerably greater.

Mats, country.—This is an entirely new traffic which the Africans themselves are experimenting in, and successfully so far. The mats are used chiefly as roofing for native huts.

Potatoes.—The increase, although substantial, is not what had been hoped for, but both growers and traders have had great difficulties to contend with, and the exporters to South Africa have had unexpected bad luck with the shippers, which it is hoped will not again happen. With an ever-increasing community of European and Indian settlers, it is a traffic which must increase with great strides year by year, and given improved facilities by sea to the East and South African markets, and also to the ports of Aden, Bombay, and Karachi, the future demand for fine potatoes such as are grown in Uganda, is fully assured.

Rubber.—This amounted to just 13 tons, or six tons less than was carried in the previous half-year. A very much larger quantity was expected but not obtained, owing to certain obstacles in the rubber laws of Uganda.

Country Produce Traffic on the Uganda Railway in 1902.

Salt, country.—This staple has not been in increased demand, and $21\frac{1}{2}$ tons only as against $24\frac{1}{2}$ tons in the previous half-year were carried from Nairobi. It is largely used in tobacco manufacture, and the large decrease in the number of railway coolies, who all smoke heavily, may have had to do with the small quantity carried.

Sim-sim or Oil Seed.—A trade in this only started during the half-year under report, and the seed is grown in the districts on the lake. The Italian Trading Company seem to have a monopoly of it, and they were almost the only firm who despatched the $16\frac{1}{2}$ tons from Port Florence to the coast, and it no doubt found its way to Europe by the Austrian-Lloyd boats. The agents of the above named firm state that they expect to provide a steadily increasing traffic in this seed.

Tobacco.—The figures for the half-year are 6 tons 6 cwt., as against 7 tons 18 cwt. in the previous half-year. The decrease in the number of railway coolies is entirely responsible for this, as the demand was altogether a local one.

The districts around Kiu and Machakos Road are the only places growing tobacco so far, but a development in it may reasonably be looked for, and it is hoped that the Indian traders may be able to introduce it at the coast and Zanzibar, and compete with tobacco from German territory now coming into the country from German East African ports.

Vegetables.—In the first half-year there was a certain traffic in vegetables, but it was not worthy of note. The figures for the second half-year amounting to 60 tons are well worth notice, and show what the very few settlers in Uganda have done in cultivating their shambas. The mixed train service is most suitable for the perishable traffic of this sort as the trains run over the coast or hot district at night, and as they do the run from Nairobi in less than 24 hours the vegetables are quite fresh when landed in Mombasa. The supply is not nearly up to the demand as yet, so an increased traffic must come.

An effort is also being made to send vegetables down directly to connect with steamers for Zanzibar, and it is hoped it will be fairly successful.

RAILWAY PROJECTS IN BRITISH INDIA.

The following memorandum by the Hon. Mr. A. T. Arundel, C.S.I., I.C.S., on railway projects in British India for the forthcoming financial year, is published in an extraordinary number of the "Gazette of India" for 18th March last, together with statements in detail relating to such projects. [For corresponding information for the year 1902-03, reference should be made to pp. 202-4 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 1st May, 1902] :—

"In preparing the programme of anticipated railway capital expenditure for the year 1903-04, I have kept the same classification as last year. The proposed allotments for open lines (a) are first shown, including the provision of rolling stock, and the other requirements for the maintenance and development of traffic; (b) next the funds necessary for the steady prosecution and early completion of lines already in progress, and finally (c) the amounts to be allotted for the construction of new lines."

Statement A shows these figures to be as follows :—

	Budget for 1903-1904. Rs.
(a) Open lines and rolling stock ...	5,76,68,000*
(b) Lines already under construction ...	4,44,24,000
	<hr/> 10,20,92,000
(c) New lines proposed to be begun in 1903-04	79,08,000
	<hr/> 11,00,00,000

Mr. Arundel points out that no detailed figures are given of the probable expenditure on railways in the years 1904-05 and 1905-06, as any such details must necessarily be misleading, but it may be remarked there is no reason to suppose that the requirements for works necessary for dealing with existing traffic and the development of railways will be in any degree less in those years than during 1903-04; on the contrary, it is probable that they will continue to increase year by year.

After providing for the requirements of "open lines" and "lines under construction," the programme for "new construction" provides for an expenditure of Rs. 55,94,000 in the forthcoming year on the following projects :—

(1) Jech-Doab (Southern Section); (2) Bengal-Nagpore, including the Gondia-Chanda and the Brahmapuri-Nagpur extension; (3) Lower Sind extension of the North Western railway; (4) Hapur-Meerut; (5) Rameswaram extension of the South Indian railway.

In consideration of the commendable enterprise which certain District Boards in the Madras Presidency have shown in the

* Includes reserve of Rs. 74,08,000 for new lines.

Railway Projects in British India.

matter of improving the means of communication within their jurisdiction, the Government of India, in order to encourage and expedite the construction of railways, have declared their willingness to advance funds from the Provincial Loan Account, on the security of the resources of the Boards, which include the proceeds of a special cess leviable under the Local Boards Act, 1884.

Such loans would be repayable in regular instalments, and it is hoped that full advantage will be taken of this measure.

The subjoined table shows the progress made in the development of railway communication, including lines financed by native States or companies outside the programme, during the year 1902-03:—

Year.	Mileage.				
	At commencement of Year.			During the Year.	
	Opened.	Commenced, but not open.	Sanctioned, but not commenced.	Opened or likely to be opened.	Sanctioned.
1902-03 ...	25,378	2,344	441	1,096	682

The memorandum on the construction of railways from which the foregoing figures have been extracted shows that, after making allowance for corrections of mileage, the total length of open line at the end of the fiscal year, 1902-03, would be 26,471 miles. The mileage under actual or impending construction on the 1st April last was 2,371 miles, making a grand total of railways completed, and in hand, at the commencement of 1903-04, of 28,842 miles.

It is expected that 654 miles will be opened for public traffic in 1903-04, leaving 1,717 miles for completion in 1904-05 or later.

The whole series of statements may be consulted by those interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

RUSSO-PERSIAN TRADE.

According to figures extracted by the British Commercial Agent in Russia from the Official Customs returns of Russian Trade by Asiatic frontiers for the year 1900 (the latest available), the values of the imports into Russia from Persia and of the exports from Russia to Persia during each of the years 1890, 1895, 1899 and 1900 were as follow :—

	Imports into Russia from Persia.	Exports from Russia to Persia.
	Roubles.	Roubles.
1890	10,783,228	10,895,880
1895	18,964,626	14,159,723
1899	21,696,374	17,859,000
1900	20,413,061	20,648,970

The chief articles of import during 1900 were the following :—

	Roubles.
Raw cotton... ..	4,591,704
Fruits, berries, fresh, dried	4,233,684
Almonds and pistachio nuts	1,432,271
Rice, unhusked	1,231,132
Fish of all kinds	968,227
Undressed skins	799,978
Silk and semi-silk manufactured articles	791,576
Woollen carpets	750,499
Dressed skins	582,326
Furs	581,807

The chief articles of export during 1900 were :—

Sugar, refined and "mellis"	7,677,301
Cotton textiles, without premium	145,533
" " premium Roubles 3·45	306,711
" " " " 3·67½ C.	2,564,156
" " " " 4·20	2,258,112
White sand sugar, refined...	1,106,544
Wheat flour	1,064,185
Naphtha illuminating oils	485,373
Tea	477,113
Glass goods	408,116
Metal manufactured goods	569,025

The "Turkestan Gazette" (quoted in the "Moscow Viedomosti" of the 22nd December/4th January) says that the increase in the trade between the two countries which took place during the decade 1890 to 1900, as indicated by the above figures, might be considered brilliant were it not for the heavy monetary sacrifices Russia has to bear for the purpose of developing the trade.

Referring to the excess of imports from Persia over Russian exports to that country shown by the figures for 1895 to 1900, the "Moscow Viedomosti" of 31st December/13th January says that if the very low valuation of Persian goods by Russian Custom-houses be taken into consideration (cotton, in particular, is instanced), the preponderance of Persian exports to Russia is all the more considerable.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN EASTERN SIBERIA.*

The British Commercial Agent at Vladivostock in a report recently received at the Foreign Office, remarks that up to the present time very little attention has been given by British manufacturers to the markets of Eastern Siberia. Although the enormous extent of land east of Lake Baikal is but sparsely inhabited, yet there are some 10,000,000 people who exist there and whose wants must be supplied. These people are getting more and more civilised, and they are requiring many luxuries which can be supplied by British manufacturers. Besides the native population there is a fairly large and increasing number of settlers, both free peasants and convicts; and during the last three years a large increase in the naval and military forces has taken place. It must be remembered, however, that large wholesale and retail business houses have been established for a number of years in all the principal towns of Eastern Siberia, and British merchants should endeavour to get into touch with these houses in order to get them to introduce British goods to the Siberian public. At present Germany has command of the markets for most articles, the imports from England being chiefly galvanised iron for roofing purposes, iron and steel bars, plates, wire nails and coal. The closing of the free-port of Vladivostock and the imposition of the Russian duties which took place in January, 1902, has entirely put a stop to the import of fancy articles, woollens, prints, and similar articles, and has very much decreased the imports of canned goods such as sardines, tinned milk, butter, and also pickles and sauces which formerly came mostly from England. **Machinery** for mining purposes is duty free except American, which has a duty of 40 per cent. levied on it. Brick houses are now to a large extent taking the place of the wooden ones, and there is a good demand for brick presses, especially hand ones. For the next two or three years there will probably be a large demand for bricks, as barracks for the troops which are being withdrawn from Manchuria are now being planned in the chief towns of the district. **Fire bricks** are mostly imported from England and are sold at very high prices, as much as 10*l.* per thousand being charged; the local made fire brick is sold for 4*l.* per thousand, and finds a good demand for stove purposes. There is also a demand for fancy tiles for paving shops and halls; at present these are supplied from Germany. There is a considerable sale for builders' ironmongery, carpenters' and blacksmiths' tools, but it is all in German hands; galvanised iron, which is sold in large quantities, all comes from England. As the duty is levied by weight on all metal goods, very light articles are usually imported. As regards mining machinery the demand is growing, especially for coal mining purposes; winding engines, hauling engines, boilers,

* This should be read in connection with the article on the "Condition of Trade at Vladivostock," published on p. 623 *et seq.* of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 26th March last, and with the article, on pp. 209-10 of the present issue, on the "Commercial Development of Dalny."

Trade Opportunities in Eastern Siberia.

also light railways, are wanted and one company is in the market for a complete briquette making plant. The coal mining industry is only in its infancy; the largest colliery is turning out about 5,000 tons a month, but as wood is getting scarce and expensive there is certain to be a large demand for coal which will necessitate the opening of collieries and a good demand for all kinds of mining machinery. This should not be lost sight of by British manufacturers.

Mr. Schwabe adds:—"There is a good demand for fire-arms, especially shot guns, but it is the name that sells; the Americans have made a speciality of the gun trade and a good stock of American guns is kept here. It is of very little use sending catalogues or samples here, what the Russians want is a good stock to choose from, and they will then pay any price that is asked."

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF DALNY.

With reference to the particulars given on pp. 15-17 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 2nd April respecting the development of the towns of Harbin and Dalny, the following extracts (in translation) from a letter to the St. Petersburg "Viedomosti," written by its Dalny correspondent, relative to the commercial development of that town, have been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg:—

"The work of completing the new railway terminus is being pressed on The ground plan of the town has been completed. All the official buildings are constructed, the streets laid out and lighted with electricity, the harbour has been deepened and protected by breakwaters, the wharves are about half completed, one dry dock is quite ready and a second has been begun, and the town possesses a hospital, a public library, three clubs, public promenades, &c.

"A number of measures have been decided on restricting the commercial development of Port Arthur, by which Dalny will gain. The chief among these are the opening before long of a Custom-house at Dalny, and making the line between Port Arthur and Nangalin a branch line. In consequence of these measures the commercial firms at Port Arthur will be obliged to forward their goods, not direct to their destination, but first to Dalny, where they must go through all the inconvenience and formalities of re-expedition. In consequence, the commercial centre of the Kwang Tung Peninsula is bound to be transferred from Port Arthur to Dalny.

"This commercial evolution is already beginning to take place. Our principal merchants are following the new current and abandoning Port Arthur in order to settle permanently in Dalny.

Commercial Development of Dalny.

"During 1902 the export trade of Dalny was nil. The import trade was also insignificant. The principal import was tea, a million and a-half pounds of this commodity being despatched to Russia, and at present there is a large stock of Chinese tea concentrated at Irkutsk, destined for the fair at Nijni Novgorod.

"At the opening of the navigation season this year exportation began. The first ships to leave were two Japanese steamers laden with beans. Subsequently five foreign steamers cleared with cargoes of beans. At the present moment two steamers are being loaded with goods delivered by railway from Siberia and Manchuria.

"Almost every day fresh consignments arrive from Manchuria, Siberia, and European Russia (but little from the latter). Some Chinese and Japanese Steamship Companies have included Dalny among their ports of call. A group of tea merchants from Colombo and Singapore are proposing to despatch tea *via* Dalny, the route being an economy of time and money, since the duties on tea at Odessa amount to 92 copecks per pound, or double the duties by the Siberian land frontier at Manchuria town. This difference of duties compensates for the increased cost of transport across Siberia.

"Unfavourable reports have been current with regard to the commercial conditions of Dalny. Such reports may often be traced to the Port Arthur newspaper, the 'Novi Krai,' which systematically decries Dalny."

SILK CULTIVATION IN SIAM.

According to an article by M. A. Poskin, licentiate of the higher grade in commercial science, published in the "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of the 4th April, silk culture has been practised since ancient times in Siam, and the summary methods of manipulating the cocoons differ at the present day very slightly from those of three or four hundred years ago.

In spite of the primitive processes employed, Siam produces considerable quantities of silk tissues of fairly good quality, some of which are justly renowned in the home and neighbouring markets, amongst these being the silks of Korat and Chiengmai.

All, or nearly all, the raw silk produced is prepared and woven in the country, and the fabrics do not give rise, any more than the raw material, to any considerable export business, except to Burmah, but they are not in all cases without importance to European and American commerce.

Good quality raw silk actually produced in Siam has a market value of 400 to 600 dols. a picul (picul = 133½ lbs.), whilst common quality may be estimated at 120 dols. the picul at the actual places of production. In Japan, where the production is very great, good raw silk has a value of about 900 dols. a picul.

Silk Cultivation in Siam.

The principal market for silk in Siam is Korat, and, according to Customs returns, the value entered last year from neighbouring provinces was 6,580 ticals (tical = 1s. 2½d.) of raw Siamese silk (344 piculs). However, according to the figures given by the 23 raw silk merchants established at Korat, after allowance for exaggeration, 2,000 piculs of raw silk would be about the annual import.

The price of cocoons on this market is rather high, and varies from 3 dols. to 3.50 dols. the pound.

The following table shows the prices per 1,200 grammes of the four descriptions of silk known in the district of Korat:—

				Price per 1,200 grammes.
" Meis nong nok "	...	...	...	25 ticals
" Mai yat "	...	...	...	10 to 17 ticals
" Mai kha "	...	...	...	about 10 "
" Mai yoi "	...	...	...	" 2 "

The prices at the producers, after subtracting internal Customs dues, which amount to 10 per cent., are about 100 per cent. lower. The difference goes to the middlemen.

In their desire to develop this industry for the benefit of the population, and to improve the product, the Siamese Government have engaged the services of a Japanese expert. This expert, M. Toyama, visited Korat as a preliminary measure, and collected, during his journey, samples of Siamese silk in every stage of manufacture, as well as models of the machines employed in the manipulation of the cocoons, the winding and the spinning.

He estimates that in a certain time Siamese silk will be equal in value to Cantonese silk, which is worth 700 dols. a picul. This appreciation by an expert is of no little value to the country.

M. Toyama declares that the raw product of Siam is not very good, but by the utilisation of perfected methods in the work it will be quite possible to produce a good silk. Unfortunately, one of the great difficulties of the undertaking is that, although an important silk industry undoubtedly exists in Siam, practically no information concerning it is extant. It would be useful to know what varieties of trees and of silkworms are usually employed and with what results, and what methods of winding and spinning. Nothing is known at Bangkok, and M. Toyama's first duty will be to throw light upon these questions.

This gentleman has already selected at Sapatoom ten acres of land favourable for his experiments. Here he will make preparatory trials in the acclimatisation of new kinds of mulberries and silkworms, and a laboratory will be built for him. Work in the same direction is already going on in the experimental garden.

The article concludes by stating that there is no reason why perfected silk culture in Siam should not grow into a very important industry, in which three or four yields a year may be obtained.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

A copy of the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 13th March last has been received, containing **Tariff Decisions.** Decisions made under section 139 of the Customs Act of 1901, relating to the rates of duty payable on the under-mentioned articles imported into the Commonwealth:—

Articles.	Rate of Import Duty.
Carbosil—	
As soda crystals 	1s. per cwt.
Curled fibre—	
As hair curled 	20 % <i>ad valorem</i> .

The "Gazette" of the same date contains a further notice, under date of the 13th March, 1903, to the effect that "others are added to the list of articles which are allowed to be manufactured for home consumption in a manufacturing warehouse."

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Board of Trade have received a telegram from their Commissioner, at present in South Africa, in which **Suspension of Transit Dues.** he states that Transit dues on goods passing through Cape ports to the Transvaal have been suspended, pending their final abolition in July next.

NATAL.

With reference to the notice published in last week's "Board of Trade Journal" (p. 165), relating to a reduction **Abolition of Transit Dues.** of transit dues from three per cent. to one per cent. *ad valorem* on goods passing through Natal to places outside the South African Customs Union, from and after the 24th April, 1903, the Board have now received a further communication from the Agent-General for Natal, in which he states that transit dues have been entirely abolished in the Colony as from the above date.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the Official Gazette of British Guiana, dated 18th March, 1903, which **New Customs Tariff.** contains an Ordinance (No. 7 of 1903), fixing the Tariff of Duties to be levied on goods imported into British Guiana from the date of its publication up to and until the 31st March, 1904.

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***BRITISH GUIANA—continued.**

Under the present Ordinance the Customs Duties Ordinances Nos. 8 and 19 of 1902, are repealed, but the various rates of duty previously in force are by the present Ordinance re-enacted, except, however, in the case of the following articles:—

Articles.	Old Rates of Duty.	New Rates of Duty.
	Dols. Cts.	Dols. Cts.
Fruits and vegetables, dried, canned or preserved, other than currants and raisins Per lb.	0 05	0 02
Steel—		
Hoops Per cwt.	15 % <i>ad val.</i>	0 15
Galvanised, in bars, rods, sheets, or corrugated Per cwt.		0 50
Black, in bars, rods, sheets, or plates (other than boiler plates) Per cwt.		0 40
Wire block, n.e.s.		0 30
[The above new rates were only applicable to "iron" hoops, bars, &c., under the previous Tariff.]		
Chains, black or galvanised Per cwt.	0 40	0 40
[The present Ordinance specifies that dog, parrot, and trace chains are not to be included—which, presumably, will be dutiable as "unenumerated articles" at 15 % <i>ad val.</i>]		
Lime, hydraulic	15 % <i>ad val.</i>	20 cts. per brl.
Lumber	—	—
[The present Ordinance specifies that the various rates (which are unaltered) given for lumber are not to include spars.]		
Oils (other than gasoline, benzene and crude petroleum), when admitted with the sanction of the Comptroller of Customs, which gives off an inflammable vapour at a temperature of less than 85° Fahr.—		
As ascertained by the test established in England by the Petroleum Act of 1879 Per gall.	3 00	—
When tested in the Abel-Pensky apparatus in the manner laid down in the Schedule to the Proclamation of the 7th November, 1901, under the Petroleum Ordinance of 1872 Per gall.	—	3 00
Oils, crude petroleum (when admitted with the sanction of the Comptroller of Customs) Per gall.	0 01	0 01
[The present Ordinance specifies that such by-products as Jodolite are to be included.]		
Paints—		
Distempers	15 % <i>ad val.</i>	20 cts. per cwt.
Shingles of all kinds Per 1,000	0 50	—
wooden, of all kinds	—	0 50
Seeds—		
Black and white pepper Per lb.	0 02	—
Black and other pepper, ground or unground Per lb.	—	0 02
Spirits—		
Perfumed, not over proof... .. Per liquid gall.	3 50	2 00
over proof	6 00	4 00
[The present Ordinance specifies that the "perfumed spirits" must, in the opinion of the Comptroller of Customs, not be potable].		

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***BRITISH GUIANA—continued.**

Articles.	Old Rates of Duty.		New Rates of Duty.	
	Dols. Cts.		Dols. Cts.	
Sugar—				
White, refined Per lb.	0	03	0	03
Other kinds... ..	0	01	0	01
NOTE.—The present Ordinance provides that after the coming into operation of the Brussels Convention the duty on sugar shall be as follows:—				
White, refined Per 100 lbs.	—		0	45
Other kinds... ..	—		0	40
Articles imported for the use of the pilot service of the Colony	Free		Rated according to article.	
Fire-engines			Free	
Hose and couplings for the same	15 % <i>ad val.</i>		"	
Machinery, viz.—				
Rheostats and rails and their appendages—				
For electric street lighting	Free		"	
" locomotion	15 % <i>ad val.</i>		"	
Photographs, unframed... ..	15 % "		"	
Plans	15 % "		"	
Vaccine, lymph, mallein, and tuberculine	15 % "		"	

NOTE.—All dutiable articles, whether specified in the above list or not, are subject to the *additional* charge of five per cent. on the amount of duty leviable.

Provision is also made that if, in the case of composite goods, any article is enumerated in the *Tariff*, or can be classed under two or more names, headings, or descriptions, and there is a difference of duty, the highest duty shall be charged and collected thereon; the higher duty will not, however, be exacted in cases where the Comptroller of Customs is satisfied that the article only contains a very small proportion of the article bearing the higher duty.

The present Ordinance provides (as has been done in previous Ordinances), for a reduction of duty upon goods, the product of the soil or industry of the United States and of Great Britain and the British Possessions, and of such other countries as shall be entitled by convention with Great Britain to the benefit of the most-favoured-nation treatment so soon as the Reciprocal Trade Convention between Great Britain and the United States of America, with respect to British Guiana, comes into operation.

The copy of the Ordinance may be seen by persons interested on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***BRITISH GUIANA—continued.**

The "Official Gazette" of British Guiana of the 25th March publishes the text of an Ordinance (No. 8 of 1903) imposing certain taxes for the public use of the Colony during the financial year 1903-4.

The present Ordinance, after providing for tonnage and light dues (for which see p. 219), gives rates of Excise duty on rum and other spirits taken or sold for consumption in the Colony, excise duty on matches made and sold in the Colony; also various stamp and legacy duties, and duties on licenses to trade, &c.

The "Gazette" containing the full text of the Ordinance may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

With reference to the notice published on p. 445 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 26th February, 1903, the Board have now received a copy of the "British Central Africa Gazette" for 28th February last containing a notice fixing the "valuations" on the under-mentioned articles for export purposes, from 1st April, 1903, as follows:—

Articles.	Valuations.	Articles.	Valuations.
	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>
Beeswax ... ..per lb.	1 0	Hippo teeth	1 0
Coffee"	0 6	Ivory"	6 0
Chillies"	0 4	Maize ... ..per ton	50 0
Cotton—		Oil seeds ... ..per lb.	0 4
Unginned"	0 1	Rubber"	2 0
Ginned"	0 2	Strophanthus"	5 0
Ginger, raw"	0 2	Tobacco"	0 4
Ground nuts"	0 1		

ST. LUCIA.

With reference to the notice of an Order-in-Council which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th March, 1903 (p. 589), rescinding a previous Order-in-Council which prohibited the importation of cattle from Porto Rico, the Board of Trade have now received from the Administrator of St. Lucia a copy of a further Order-in-Council, dated 19th March last, prohibiting the importation into St. Lucia

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

from Porto Rico of cattle, unless the following conditions have been complied with, viz. :—

That the master of the vessel in which such cattle are imported shall on arrival at this port produce to the Treasurer a written certificate from a competent veterinary surgeon that he has examined such cattle immediately prior to their being shipped at Porto Rico and that they were then free from disease.

TURKEY.

With reference to notices which have appeared in previous issues of the "Journal" on the subject of the admission into Turkey of British sweets coloured with aniline dyes, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople stating that, pending the issue of modifications to be effected in certain articles of the Turkish Chemical Analysis Regulation, British sweets may be allowed to enter Turkey, provided that they are shown by analysis not to contain a larger proportion of colouring matter than those sweetmeats of which the entry was authorised in December last.

GREECE.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the new Currant Retention Bill, authorising the Greek Government to retain 24 per cent. instead of 20 per cent. as heretofore of all currants exported from Greece, has passed the third reading in the Greek Chamber, power being reserved to the Government to decide whether the full 24 per cent. retention shall be put into force or not. Notice of the decision in question is to be inserted in the "Official Gazette" not later than the 6th—19th August next, and all exportation of currants of the new crop prior to that date is prohibited.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the article known in Great Britain as "silicate cotton" or "slag wool," and in the United States as "mineral wool" or "rock wool," is liable, on importation into the United States, to a duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, as a non-enumerated manufactured article under Section 6 of the Tariff Act.

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***CUBA.**

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of a Cuban Law, dated the 27th February, imposing special duties on the manufacture, sale or consumption of certain articles in order to provide revenues for the payment of the interest and sinking fund of a new loan of 35,000,000 dollars (American gold) to be raised to meet obligations incurred in respect of arrears of pay of the Cuban Revolutionary Army, &c. The following is a list of the articles affected, and of the duties leviable thereon under the provisions of this Law :—

Articles.	Unit.	Duty.
Rum, gin, whisky, or other analogous spirit, manufactured in Cuba or imported	Bottle or litre	Dols. Cts. 0 20
Sparkling wine, imported	Litre	0 30
Wine of other classes, imported	"	0 02
Natural cider, imported	"	0 06
Wine, manufactured or blended in Cuba	Bottle or litre	0 25
Beer, manufactured in Cuba or imported	Case of 24 half-bottles, or 12 whole bottles, or per 9 litres	0 05
Artificial (mineral) water, manufactured in Cuba or imported	Case of 24 half-bottles	0 05
Artificial (mineral) water, in syphons of the capacity of 1 litre, manufactured in Cuba or imported	Syphon	0 00½
Artificial (mineral) water, in cylinders, manufactured in Cuba or imported	Cylinder	0 05
Artificial cider, manufactured in Cuba or imported	Case of 24 half-bottles	0 05
Matches, in boxes containing up to 60 matches, manufactured in Cuba or imported	Gross of 144 boxes	0 30
Finished cigars, manufactured in Cuba and intended for export, the weight of 1,000 exceeding three pounds	Thousand	1 00*
Cigarettes, manufactured in Cuba and intended for export, the weight of 1,000 not exceeding three pounds	"	0 10*
Finished cigars, manufactured in Cuba and intended for home consumption, the weight of 1,000 exceeding three pounds	"	2 00
Cigarettes, manufactured in Cuba and intended for home consumption, the weight of 1,000 not exceeding three pounds	"	0 20
Cut tobacco in packets, manufactured in Cuba	Pound	0 06
Sugar, manufactured in Cuba	Bag, containing up to 14 arrobas (350 lbs.)	0 05*
Playing cards, manufactured in Cuba or imported	Pack	0 05

NOTE.—Where these duties are leviable on imported goods they are additional to import duties.

* These duties will not take effect until the amortisation of the loan begins, but the Executive is authorised to commence the collection of them earlier if requisite to make up deficiencies in the payment of the interest on the loan.

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—SPAIN.**

With reference to the notice which appeared at page 71 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 8th January last, the "Gaceta de Madrid" for the 20th April contains a notification to the effect that the Treaty of Friendship and General Relations between the United States of America and Spain, signed at Madrid on 3rd July last, has been duly ratified, and the ratifications exchanged at Madrid on the 14th April.

**Exchange of
Ratifications of
Treaty between
United States of
America and
Spain.**

COLOMBIA.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 496 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 5th March last, relative to a general increase of the import duties leviable in Colombia, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, copy and translation of a Decree dated the 13th February, under which the increase referred to was enacted.

The following are the new rates of duty imposed by this Decree (which was to come into force on the 1st March) on the various classes of goods comprised in the Tariff* :—

Classes of Articles.						Rate of Duty per Kilogramme.	
						Dols.	Cts.
Articles mentioned in class 1 of the Tariff, and not expressly exempted by law from payment of duty						0	20
Articles enumerated in class 2... ..						0	45
" " " 3... ..						1	25
" " " 4... ..						2	25
" " " 5... ..						4	50
" " " 6... ..						9	00
" " " 7... ..						13	50
" " " 8... ..						18	00
" " " 9... ..						22	50
" " " 10... ..						27	00
" " " 11... ..						31	50
" " " 12... ..						36	00
" " " 13... ..						40	50
" " " 14... ..						56	25
" " " 15... ..						67	50
" " " 16... ..						112	50

* A copy of the Tariff itself, containing the lists of goods included under each of these classes, may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Certain alterations have also been made, as follows, in the grouping of goods under some of these classes:—

Cognac, essences, and spirits used in the manufacture of liqueurs are included in class 16.

Cigars and cigarettes in class 15.

Tobacco, cut, and other tobacco of all kinds, in class 10.

Cigarette paper and stamped paper for packets of cigarettes in class 8.

Aguardiente, wormwood, alcohol, bitters, brandy, champagne, cognac, liqueurs (curacao, chartreuse, and the like), gin, kirsch, rum, whisky, &c., &c., in class 14.

Finally, the Decree contains a provision to the effect that, in those Custom-houses of the Republic where duties are collected in silver coin .835 fine, the sum payable before the promulgation of this Decree will only be increased by 100 instead of approximately by 1,000 per cent.*

A memorandum on the subject of this Decree has also been received from H.M. Legation at Bogota, in which it is stated that the new table of duties, when considered in paper currency, shows approximately a tenfold increase in all classes except Nos. 8, 9, and 10 (which relate principally to Manchester and Birmingham goods), where the rise has been somewhat higher. The memorandum adds that if a gold comparison be made of the new and old duties, it will be seen that an all round increase has taken place, which will rise still further in proportion as exchange declines.

It should be added that at the period when this memorandum was prepared, exchange was quoted at 6,800 to 7,200 per cent.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The "Official Gazette" of British Guiana, dated 25th March, publishes the text of an Ordinance imposing certain taxes for the public use of the Colony during the financial year 1903-4.

Tonnage and Light Duties, Pilotage Dues, and Storage Rates. Under the heading of "Tonnage and Light Duties" it is provided that every sailing vessel, with certain exemptions, entering at the Custom House at any port of the Colony shall pay a tonnage duty calculated at the following rates:—

	Per ton.
1. On a vessel of 70 tons and upwards ...	0.25 dols.
2. On a vessel under 70 tons, not to be collected more than four times in any one year	0.05 ..

* See also "Board of Trade Journal" for 29th January, p. 215, and 1st January, p. 24.

Shipping and Transport.

Steam vessels, with certain exemptions, shall pay a tonnage duty of 25 cents per ton on the registered tonnage of the vessel, or a tonnage duty on the weight or measurement of the goods landed or taken on board, to be computed in accordance with a system of assessment and computation laid down in Schedules to the Ordinance.

It is also provided that pilotage dues shall be levied upon every vessel entering or leaving the ports of the Colony, such dues being specified in a third schedule.

Full particulars of the above-mentioned dues, as contained in the "Gazette," together with a list of the rates levied upon all spirits, wines and merchandise stored in any Government bonded warehouse, may be seen on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

EGYPT.

The following statement, showing the number and tonnage of Shipping through the Suez Canal in 1902. vessels of various nationalities passing through the Suez Canal last year as compared with 1900 and 1901, is taken from the Bulletin of the Suez Canal Company for the 22nd April:—

Country.	1900.		1901.		1902.	
	Ships.	Gross Tonnage.	Ships.	Gross Tonnage.	Ships.	Gross Tonnage.
United Kingdom ...	1,985	7,771,347	2,075	8,651,015	2,165	9,338,996
Germany ...	462	2,047,230	511	2,452,423	480	2,371,046
France ...	285	1,167,987	281	1,158,077	274	1,174,056
Netherlands ...	233	704,468	230	709,548	218	727,943
Austria-Hungary ...	126	467,605	138	555,065	139	569,345
Russia ...	100	451,152	129	537,035	110	472,946
Japan ...	63	351,854	57	334,553	61	331,562
Italy ...	82	247,167	87	268,329	85	252,091
Spain ...	84	183,248	35	155,974	30	133,157
Norway ...	30	90,205	47	102,796	41	100,730
Denmark ...	27	97,340	20	76,178	14	55,702
Ottoman Empire ...	28	43,125	40	67,871	38	57,863
United States of America	22	78,314	25	65,923	21	67,996
Greece ...	2	214	6	11,617	14	25,370
Belgium ...	7	16,895	4	7,036	—	—
Portugal ...	3	6,424	6	4,339	3	4,306
Sweden ...	2	2,996	4	2,729	7	8,284
Argentina ...	1	1,777	1	1,777	—	—
Siam ...	—	—	1	521	2	1,172
Sarawak ...	—	—	1	365	—	—
Egyptian ...	—	—	1	62	6	6,274
Total ...	3,441	13,699,238	3,699	15,163,233	3,708	15,694,359

Shipping and Transport.

RUSSIA.

The British Commercial Agent in Russia reports that, according to the "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" (St. Petersburg), a Special Commission of members of the Administration of the Chinese Eastern (Manchurian) Railway left St. Petersburg for Kharbin on 15th/28th March to take over the said line from the Chief Constructing Engineer, and to deliver it over to the new administration which is to work the line, at the head of which is Engineer Colonel Khorwat, appointed manager. The latter on definitely taking over the railway will arrange that it shall be open for regular public traffic by 1st/14th June next.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The British Vice-Consul at Kansas City reports that a new railway is now under construction, being partly financed by British capital. This line is intended to make a direct short connection from Kansas City to the Pacific Coast, with a view to bidding for trade with the Far East. The contemplated route passes through Kansas, Oklahoma, and Mexico, the Pacific terminus being at Topolabampo, now known as Port Stilwell. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,952.*)

MINERALS, METALS, AND MACHINERY.**UNITED KINGDOM.**

An enquiry was held in the Town Hall, Bilston, on the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th April, into the circumstances attending the explosion of a boiler which occurred on the 20th January last at the Batman's Hill Iron Works, near Bilston, owned by Messrs. Tupper & Co.

The Court found that the explosion was caused by the flue tube of the boiler being unable to resist a pressure of 43 lbs. per square inch. The owners were held responsible for the negligence of the manager and chief engineer, and were ordered to pay 50*l.* towards the cost of the enquiry.

*Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.***AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.**

The Board of Trade have received from the office of the Agent-General for Western Australia a communication stating that the crushing returns for the month of March, 1903, for all gold mining companies in the State are as follows, the figures for March, 1902, being added for the purposes of comparison:—

—	March, 1902.	March, 1903.
Ore treated	148,944 tons	179,888 tons
Yield of gold	161,812 ozs.	195,544 ozs.
Average yield per ton...	1 oz. 1 dwt. 17 grs.	1 oz. 1 dwt. 17 grs.

With reference to the notice on pp. 404-5 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th February last, the Board of Trade have received from Mr. E. A. Nowell, Clerk of the Executive and Legislative Council of Tasmania, a statement of the production of metals and minerals in that Colony in the quarter ended 31st December, 1902, from which the following table has been compiled. The figures for the complete year have been made up as far as possible:—

—	Quarter ended 31st December, 1901.	Quarter ended 31st December, 1902.	Year ended 31st December, 1902.
Gold won ozs., fine	14,662	17,599	70,996
Silver ore exported ... tons	3,766	6,367	24,100
" lead bullion exported "	2,071	1,864	5,482
Copper exported... ..	100	201	369
" blister exported... ..	2,503	1,102	7,532
" ore " ... "	950	3	4,464
" matte " ... "	—	2,175	2,650
Tin, metallic " ... "	498	617	1,958
Tin ore " ... "	41	57	180
Iron ore " ... "	202	355	} not available
Coal raised	12,587	12,075	

The value of the minerals produced in the last quarter of 1902 is returned as 404,950*l.*, as compared with 468,725*l.* in the corresponding quarter of 1901. This brings out the value for the whole of 1902 at 1,596,748*l.*

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 22nd inst. contains a Royal Order approving general mining regulations, which are given at length in the "Gaceta" provisionally, until, after the Council of State has been heard, definite regulations be decreed.

*Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.***SPAIN—continued.**

A copy of the "Gaceta" containing the regulations may be seen by those interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 24th April contains a Royal Order, dated 2nd April, approving the sheet of technical conditions for the construction of metal bridges, drawn up by the Inspector-General of Roads, Canals and Ports, and certain engineers of that department.

**Technical
Conditions for the
Construction of
Metal Bridges.**

A copy of the sheet of conditions is given in the "Gaceta," which may be seen on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., on any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

According to the "Bulletin" of the American Iron and Steel Association for the 10th April, the total production of open-hearth steel ingots and castings in the United States in 1902 was 5,687,729 gross tons, against 4,656,309 tons in 1901, an increase of 1,031,420 tons, or over 22 per cent. As compared with 1898, when the production of open-hearth steel amounted to 2,230,292 tons, there was an increase in 1902 of 3,457,437 tons, or over 155 per cent.

The open-hearth steel made in 1902 was produced by 98 works in 16 States, as compared with 90 works in 14 States in 1901. The States which have open-hearth furnaces, but which did not produce steel by this process in 1902, were Kentucky and Minnesota. The erection of a large open-hearth steel plant was commenced in Colorado in 1902, but open-hearth steel had not been made down to the close of the year. This State will, however, probably make open-hearth steel during the year 1903.

In 1901, 3,618,993 tons of open-hearth steel were made by the basic process, and 1,037,316 tons were made by the acid process; while in 1902, the production of the basic process amounted to 4,496,533 tons, and by the acid process to 1,191,196 tons.

The increase in the production of acid steel in 1902, as compared with 1901, was 153,880 tons, or almost 15 per cent., while the increase in the production of basic steel was 877,540 tons, or over 24 per cent.

The total production of open-hearth steel castings in 1902, included above, amounted to 367,879 gross tons, of which 112,404

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—continued.

tons were made by the basic process, and 255,475 tons were made by the acid process. In 1901, the production of open-hearth steel castings amounted to 301,622 tons, of which 94,941 tons were made by the basic process, and 206,681 tons by the acid process.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, an extract from the "Railway Age" of Chicago, transmitted by H.M. Consul at that place, relative to the partial failure of the large type of locomotive which has lately been introduced on some of the western railways.

According to this extract, evidence is coming forward which tends to show that the locomotive has grown too rapidly, and that, as now constructed, on many lines where it is employed, it is not well adapted to the service. It gives rise to considerable expense owing to the frequent necessity for repairs and to the time it is out of service.

In this connection the "Railway Age" remarks that the accumulation of condensed steam in large cylinders of compound engines, and the compression of gases demand numerous relief valves. These are constantly leaking and surrounding the front of the engine with a cloud, which must be dangerous.

Another drawback mentioned is that cracked side sheets are so very frequent with wide fire boxes on some lines, and constitute as prominent a subject of boiler shop repairs as when steel sheets were first used.

The enormous force produced by large cylinders and high steam pressures has produced stresses in the frames which have searched out the weak points, and they, too, have broken in large numbers, both cast steel and forged frames. Broken cylinders on large compound locomotives have been more frequent than is generally realised, and this has perhaps caused a greater expense for repairs and has kept the engine out of service longer than the other failures.

A considerable number of large engines are reported to have met with serious derailments when the track was unequal to the heavy wheel weights, but they have succeeded better on lines where the track is well ballasted, where heavy rails are used, and where they are properly cared for and not sent far from the home shop.

It is stated that enginemen are demanding more wages for handling the big power, and firemen complain that the amount of coal burned is so large that two firemen should be employed.

In conclusion, the "Railway Age" says that the lesson to be learned from the failure of heavy locomotives in such large numbers is that they must be developed gradually by a process of continued improvement, due to the knowledge gained by their various failures in detail in service. All this requires time, and a longer time than has been given to the development of the very large locomotive.

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The Board of Trade have received from the Silk Association of Great Britain and Ireland a copy of International Yarn Tables, which have been computed and arranged by Messrs. McLennan, Blair & Co., yarn merchants, of Glasgow, who are members of the Silk Association. The table of yarn counts is issued with the approval of the "Comité permanent du Congrès International de 1900 pour l'unification du numérotage des fils," and the object of the tables is to enable spinners and reelers with ease to mark on their packages and invoices, in addition to the local count, its equivalent in the international metric system.

BRITISH INDIA.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of a monthly return issued by the Indian Government, showing the quantity of cotton yarn spun, and of cotton woven goods produced, during December, 1902, and the nine months ending December of that year, in each province of British India, and in Berar and the Native States.

The following summarised statement, extracted from the above return, gives particulars for the nine months ended 31st December, 1900, 1901, and 1902:—

		Nine Months ended 31st December.		
		1900.	1901.	1902.
BRITISH INDIA, BERAR, AND NATIVE STATES.				
Cotton yarn spun ...	Lbs.	238,776,980	429,599,430	431,512,052
Cotton woven goods produced:—				
Grey goods ...	{ = Yards	61,581,168	76,016,164	75,239,076
White and coloured goods ...	Lbs.	252,132,969	313,772,642	305,072,162
Hosiery ...	"	12,678,461	15,241,453	18,075,411
		306,822	391,086	366,894

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 25th April were as follow:—

Wheat ...	...	26s.	1d.
Barley ...	...	21s.	9d.
Oats ...	...	17s.	9d.

For further particulars see p. 233.

*Agriculture.***UNITED KINGDOM—continued.**

A statement is published on p. 234, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 25th April, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

RUSSIA.

Referring to the notice on p. 221, the British Commercial Agent in Russia further reports that with the forthcoming opening of regular traffic on the Manchurian Railway, the tea trade will, according to the "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" of the 18th/31st March, receive a considerable impulse from the direct communications organised by the new line, with the steamer service attached to it, enabling tea to be carried direct from Hangkow, Shanghai, and Ceylon (for Ceylon tea) to the chief stations of the Siberian and Russian railway systems, including Moscow, Nijni, St. Petersburg and Warsaw. The full cost of delivery per pound (36 lbs.) of tea from the above named ports will be from 4.79 roubles to 5.1 roubles to Moscow; 5.8 roubles to 5.30 roubles to St. Petersburg; and 5.31 roubles to 5.53 roubles to Warsaw, according to port of despatch.

MEXICO.

H.M. Consul at Mexico City in his recent report gives the following extract relating to agriculture in Mexico from a recent number of the "Economista Mexicano":—"It is an undeniable fact among economists that the territory of the Republic in its present condition is not capable of producing sufficient to sustain its population; this is daily becoming more serious as the population increases, and the agricultural producing power of the country diminishes. The remedy would be irrigation, but this is costly, and unless the Government undertakes it, private initiative will accomplish little."

Commenting on this the Consul states that with irrigation immense tracts of what is now either desert or little better in Chihuahua, Coahuila and Nuevo Leon will, some day, be as fertile as the irrigated lands of Arizona and New Mexico. Mexico, being so large a country, and owing to its peculiar formation of high lands, offers almost every conceivable climate, and consequently every form of agriculture is possible. The Consul adds that he has seen this on one single estate at Tizapan-el-alto, on the southern shore of Lake Chapala, in the State of Jalisco; side by side, fields of sugar cane, barley and wheat are growing; in the orchard bananas, pomegranates and apples, coffee and potatoes, the whole range of vegetable produce of the temperate and sub-tropical zones. As a contrast to this, there are very extensive regions of nothing but barren rocks, denuded mountain ranges and vast plains of sand. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,951.*)

MISCELLANEOUS.**UNITED KINGDOM.**

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 23rd April was 102,980 and the number imported during the 17 weeks ended the 23rd April was 1,788,986. As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 23rd April, 12,718 bales, and for the 17 weeks, 165,810.

For further details see p. 233.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The following table, showing the value of the imports and exports of South Australia from and to each country

Trade in 1902. during the year 1902, is based on official statistics received from the Collector of Customs at Port Adelaide.

From and to—	Imports.	Exports.		
		South Australian Produce or Manufacture.	Other Produce or Manufacture.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	1,902,000	1,491,000	420,000	1,911,000
Commonwealth States ...	2,949,000	2,407,000	1,561,000	3,968,000
Other British possessions ...	254,000	430,000	485,000	915,000
Foreign countries	969,000	440,000	464,000	904,000
Total	6,074,000	4,768,000	2,930,000	7,698,000
Total for 1901...	7,372,000	4,216,000	3,800,000	8,016,000

NORTH-EASTERN RHODESIA.

In the report of the Administrator of Northern Rhodesia for 1901-1902 it is stated that the value of goods **Trade in 1901-02.** imported into that territory during the year ended the 31st March, 1902, amounted to 63,433*l*. During the same period the weight and value of exported goods was as follows:—

Exports.						Weight.	Value.
						Lbs.	£
Rubber						125,998	9,450
Ivory						11,376	2,844
Sundries, viz.—Beeswax, rhino. horn, hippo. teeth, hippo. hide, and pig teeth						—	23
Rubber in transit						26,880	12,317 2,016
Total value					£	—	14,833

*Miscellaneous.***LEEWARD ISLANDS.**

The Board of Trade have received from the Assistant Treasurer and Registrar of Shipping of St. Kitts-Nevis official statistics relating to the trade of that Colony in 1902, upon which the following tables are based.

The figures for 1901 have been added for purposes of comparison.

The imports and exports of the principal categories of merchandise during the two years mentioned were as follow :—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals	871	480	1,316	3,055
Food	61,826	57,970	114,678	108,784
Drink	4,237	4,785	2,419	2,811
Narcotics	1,154	1,130	—	24
Raw materials	4,238	3,745	310	376
Manufactured articles—textile	36,424	34,592	25	145
metal	6,564	5,132	345	76
Other manufactures	32,542	29,087	721	1,248
Total	147,856	136,921*	119,814	116,519
Inter-island trade	873	814	3,948	13,377*
Coin and bullion	1,000	—	3,289	11,050
Grand total	149,729	137,735	127,051	140,946

* Includes 8,000*l.* coin and bullion.

The value of the trade by countries (exclusive of internal trade) during the same two years was as follows :—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	66,131	59,110	5,634	11,118
British North America	11,777	13,454	14,242	53,745
Other British possessions	3,098	3,231	3,972	12,776
United States... ..	65,029	57,875	89,145	38,455
Other countries	2,821	3,251	10,110	11,475
Total	£ 148,856	136,921	123,103	127,569

*Miscellaneous.***GERMANY.**

With reference to the notice on p. 308 of the "Board of Trade Journal," for the 14th August, 1902, regarding the Law prohibiting the production, importation or sale of saccharine, &c., in Germany, the Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a memorandum by H.M. Commercial Attaché at Berlin on the regulations for carrying out this Law, which came into force on the 1st of April, 1903.

The principal provisions are as follows :—

Of the existing factories of saccharine only one is allowed to go on manufacturing, a permission that may, however, be recalled at any time. The price of 30 marks per kilog. cannot be exceeded when selling refined saccharine to German consumers ; exportation is allowed without any restriction on price. It may be observed that the price before the passing of the Law was only 15 marks.

With regard to business done within Germany, the regulations treat saccharine in the same way as if it were poison. It can only be furnished to apothecaries or to persons who have special authority to use it, and to the heads of certain establishments for cures, which at present is limited to that at Neuenahr on the Rhine.

For the production of specified articles, manufacturers can procure saccharine in cases where sugar cannot be used.

FRANCE—DAHOMÉY.

According to "La Dépêche Coloniale" of 5th April, the value of the imports into and the exports from the French colony of Dahoméy in 1902 was as shown in the following table, the figures for 1900 and 1901 being added for the purposes of comparison :—

—					1900.	1901.	1902.
					£	£	£
Imports	...	...	...	...	609,000	630,000	684,000
Exports	...	...	...	...	510,000	419,000	547,000
Total trade	...	...	...	£	1,119,000	1,049,000	1,231,000

The value of the imports from France in 1902 was 151,000*l.* as compared with 132,000*l.* in 1901, and the exports to France 166,000*l.* as compared with 160,000*l.*

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported in each of the years 1900, 1901 and 1902 :—

Miscellaneous.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£
Beverages	173,000	197,000	75,000
Piece-goods	182,000	127,000	209,000
Specie and paper money	73,000	41,000	54,000
Tobacco of all kinds	42,000	82,000	35,000
Metals and machinery	18,000	23,000	104,000
Manufactured articles (various)	18,000	22,000	24,000
Manufactures of wood	14,000	17,000	27,000
Threads	13,000	16,000	14,000
Glass and crystal ware	9,000	13,000	12,000
Salt	14,000	11,000	11,000
All other articles	108,000	181,000	119,000
Total	609,000	630,000	634,000

Of the total imports, Great Britain contributed goods to the value of 139,000£., Germany 230,000£., and Lagos 75,000£.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles exported in 1902, the figures for 1901 being added for purposes of comparison:—

—	1901.	1902.
	£	£
Palm nuts	193,000	298,000
Palm oil	189,000	218,000
Other articles	37,000	36,000
Total	419,000	547,000

FRANCE—NEW CALEDONIA.

According to the "Dépêche Coloniale," the trade of New Caledonia in 1902 amounted in value to

Trade in 1902. 25,729,000 frs. (1,029,000£.), of which 13,446,000 frs. (538,000£.) represented imports and 12,283,000 frs. (491,000£.) exports. Compared with the results of preceding years, the value of the exports shows an important increase, whilst as regards imports the value shows only a slight falling-off from the preceding year.

The total value of the imports and exports in each of the last five years is given as follows:—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Francs.	Francs.
1898	9,752,808	6,736,728
1899	10,958,198	8,913,197
1900	12,262,251	8,869,716
1901	13,681,939	11,055,872
1902	13,446,000	12,283,000

Miscellaneous.

In 1902 the quantity of nickel ore exported was slightly inferior to that of the preceding year, the figures being 129,653,090 kilogs. as compared with 132,814,356 kilogs. The exports of cobalt, which were only 3,123,150 kilogs. in 1901, reached 7,512,220 kilogs. in 1902, while those of chrome fell from 17,451,192 kilogs. in 1901 to 10,281,000 in 1902. As regards coffee, it will be seen from the following figures that the exports have increased very considerably during the last five years:—

		Kilogs.			Kilogs.
1898	...	141,189	1901	...	443,726
1899	...	306,197	1902	...	548,305
1900	...	275,929			

CUBA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Minister at Havana, stating that an International Chamber of Commerce has been recently legally constituted in that city, under the auspices of many of the leading foreign business houses.

The objects of the Chamber, as set forth in the bye-laws, a copy of which may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), may be summarised as follows:—

“To defend the mercantile, industrial, and shipping interests throughout the Island; to assist in their development; and to bring the Cuban Republic in closer commercial touch with the rest of the world; placing its services at the same time at the disposal of the existing Government for the furtherance of these ends.”

URUGUAY.

The following tables, showing the value of the foreign trade of Uruguay in 1902, are taken from the “Montevideo Times” of 15th March. Figures for the two preceding years have been added for purposes of comparison:—

Imports.

	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Dollars.*	Dollars.*	Dollars.*
Drinks in general	2,363,567	2,284,627	1,990,367
Comestibles, cereals and spices	4,952,677	5,129,887	5,048,319
Tobacco and cigars... ..	210,421	231,823	208,909
Soft goods and materials	4,301,783	3,936,184	4,511,764
Ready-made clothing	1,106,723	954,333	1,055,256
Raw material and machinery	7,259,180	7,755,510	7,346,662
Various	2,773,296	2,576,905	2,554,393
Live-stock	1,009,959	822,713	801,677
Total... ..	23,977,606	23,691,932	23,517,347

Uruguayan dollar = 4s. 3½d. (about).

*Miscellaneous.***Exports.**

	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Dollars.*	Dollars.*	Dollars.*
Live-stock	534,216	473,422	611,945
Slaughter-house products	26,605,662	25,931,115	29,737,992
Agricultural products	1,669,523	572,668	2,458,827
Other products	437,535	619,551	603,972
Various articles	21,310	6,493	37,614
Provisions for vessels	119,941	127,877	152,162
Total	29,388,187	27,731,126	33,602,512

* Uruguayan dollar = 4s. 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. (about).

GUATEMALA.

A despatch dated 17th March has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Guatemala, enclosing copy and translation of a new Law issued on the 29th January regarding fire and life insurance companies in Guatemala.

**New Law
relating to
Fire and Life
Insurance
Companies.**

Article XXI. of this Law provides that after a period of five years, counting from the date of the promulgation of the Law, life and fire insurance companies may not continue their operations in Guatemala unless they invest in that country half, at least, of the value of the premiums they collect there.

By Article XXII. it is provided that the authority which the Government grants to life, fire, and maritime risks insurance companies, having their headquarters abroad, may always be withdrawn, six months' notice having been given to the interested parties.

The complete translation of the Law may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 17 Weeks ended 23rd April, 1903.

	Week ended 23rd April, 1903.	17 Weeks ended 23rd April, 1903.	Week ended 23rd April, 1903.	17 weeks ended 23rd April, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	86,949	1,436,969	8,835	80,000
Brazilian	9,279	90,359	1,969	16,153
East Indian	2,794	34,673	1,000	11,370
Egyptian	2,835	210,098	724	54,840
Miscellaneous	1,123	16,887	190	3,447
Total	102,980	1,788,986	12,718	165,810

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 25th April, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

						Average Price.					
						Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
						s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 25th April, 1903						26	1	21	9	17	9
Corresponding week in—											
1896						25	8	22	6	14	3
1897						27	9	20	5	17	3
1898						38	4	27	10	18	11
1899						25	0	25	10	17	5
1900						26	0	25	2	17	11
1901						26	8	25	8	18	8
1902						28	9	26	5	21	6

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.
Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 25th April, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 25th Apr., 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	9,154	7,100
Sheep and lambs	"	9,099	5,465
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	608	506
Fresh meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	78,889	78,404
Mutton	"	106,806	100,594
Pork	"	11,248	7,851
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	77,979	99,295
Beef	"	2,807	2,381
Hams	"	14,681	85,047
Pork	"	4,680	5,878
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	15,482	18,568
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	19,658	58,882
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	61,776	80,902
Margarine	"	18,676	18,255
Cheese	"	15,857	18,670
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	68	—
" cream	"	61	48
" condensed	"	19,859	21,818
" preserved, other kinds	"	4	16
Eggs	Grt. Hndr.	246,204	382,296
Poultry and game	Value £	19,020	9,310
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	6,195	1,650
Lard	"	85,028	82,865
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,271,750	1,465,988
Wheat-meal and flour	"	299,066	458,878
Barley	"	462,826	248,405
Oats	"	269,511	321,417
Peas	"	25,591	81,687
Beans	"	2,860	77,681
Maize or Indian corn	"	856,561	687,088
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	22,812	21,146
Apricots and peaches	"	—	—
Bananas	Bunches.	56,269	51,628
Cherries	Cwts.	—	12
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	20	—
Grapes	"	485	869
Lemons	"	25,245	25,617
Oranges	"	165,557	207,076
Pears	"	809	199
Plums	"	—	—
Strawberries	"	—	4
Unenumerated	"	2,888	285
Hay	Tons.	3,447	9,187
Straw	"	1,890	1,668
Hops	Cwts.	262	858
Locust beans	"	9,200	35,400
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	170,836	169,445
Potatoes	Cwts.	122,443	46,465
Tomatoes	"	18,079	15,421
Unenumerated	Value £	12,149	21,089
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	1,871	1,168
Preserved by canning	"	5,747	2,115

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of March, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1901, in two Volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 7d. for the first, and 4s. 10d. for the second Volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and, in the second volume, details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 15th April:—State of the Labour Market in March; Wages Agreement in the South Wales Coal Trade; Labour Legislation in Holland; Report of the American Coal Strike Commission; New German Merchant Shipping Acts; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Prices of Coal and Iron; New Industrial Organisations Registered in 1902; Report of Canadian Department of Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the *Annual Series* issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,952. Chicago and District, 1902.

Necessity for watching America's increased manufacturing activity.

Falling-off of British dry goods imports.

Agricultural prosperity.

Spread of irrigation works.

Cattle ranching giving place

to farming. Good prospects for poultry rearers.

Demand for skilled labour high cost of living.

Examination of the condition of the various manufacturing industries.

Progress of railways.

Government Publications.

Better position of Indian tea in the import market.

Table showing number of cattle, sheep and hogs in the United States in 1901-3.

Statistics of the quantity

This publication also contains reports by the British Vice-Consuls at St. Louis, Denver City, Kansas City, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

and value of the export trade of Chicago, as well as tables of the value of the import trade, showing the share of the United Kingdom.

No. 2,954. Portugal, 1902.

No decline in general resources of Portugal.

Loss of trade caused by heavy Customs duties, high prices of necessaries and depression in the Portuguese colonies.

Values of the various classes of imports and exports.

Analysis of export trade, showing quantity and value of the most important produce exported.

Shipping entries and departures.

Rates of exchange.

No. 2,955. Cherbourg, 1902.

Customs duties still an obstacle to British import trade.

Proposed improvements in coal discharging methods.

Stone exports.

This publication contains also a report by the British Vice-Consul at St. Malo.

Trade in dairy and agricultural produce.

Returns of shipping at the ports of Barfleur, Carteret, Portbail, and St. Vaast.

No. 2,956. Chemnitz, 1902.

Recovery in most branches of industry except iron trade.

Review of the hosiery and glove trade.

Statistics of Germany's im-

port and export trade in textiles and knit goods, showing principal countries of origin and destination.

Census returns.

No. 2,957. The Cyclades, 1902.

Trade of Syra and other islands featureless.

Classes of goods in which foreign competition is met.

Comparative tables of im-

ports and exports with all foreign countries.

British imports in 1900, 1901, and 1902.

Shipping returns.

This publication contains also reports by the British Consular Agents at Seriphos, Zea, Santorin, and Milo.

*Government Publications.***No. 2,958. Servia, 1902.**

Examination of import trade, setting forth opportunities for increasing same, *e.g.*, in paper and wool.

Cultivation of cotton, hemp, and flax.

Principal manufacturing industries of Servia.

Table showing total value of import trade by countries of origin.

Comparative table showing average values of principal goods imported, with Great Britain's average share and her share in 1901.

Tables showing export trade by countries and principal articles.

No. 2,959. Germany, 1902.

Industrial condition.

Comparative figures of Import and Export Trade.

Agricultural produce; detailed statistics of production, &c.

Mining and colliery industry: production, imports and exports of coal.

German motor car industry.

Table of export figures of German machinery, &c.

Indigo, export figures.

Sugar production and consumption in Germany.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Coal Exports, &c., Return. 111. Price 3½d.

This return, which is issued annually, contains statistics showing the quantity of coal exported from each port in the United Kingdom to each country abroad during each quarter of the years 1901 and 1902, as well as the quantity shipped at each port for the use of vessels on foreign voyages during the same periods. The return also contains a summary statement, showing the shipments of coal from the principal districts of the United Kingdom to various groups of foreign countries and British possessions during each quarter of 1901 and 1902.

Banking and Railway Statistics, Ireland (December, 1902). [Cd. 1,543.] Price 8d.

According to this half-yearly report issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, the amount of deposits and cash balances in Joint Stock Banks in Ireland at the close of December last stood at 44,450,000*l.*, whilst the deposits in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks amounted to 11,470,000*l.*, both these amounts being the highest recorded. The report also contains statistics of the work of Co-operative Credit Associations in Ireland during each of the years 1898 to 1901, and statistics of the Irish railways.

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
EUROPE—			AFRICA—		
2934	Denmark:		2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part	
	Denmark (Suppl-men- tary) 1901	1d.	2948	of 1902 Somaliland Protectorate	1d.
	France:		588	1901-02 <i>Exotic Plants of Economic</i> <i>Interest in the Botanic</i> <i>Gardens at Entebbe,</i> <i>Uganda</i>	2½d. 1d.
2949	Brest 1902	1½d.			
2955	Cherbourg	1½d.			
2941	French Guinea ... 1901	1½d.			
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	1½d.			
	Germany:			AMERICA, NORTH—	
2956	Chemnitz 1902	1d.		United States of America:	
2945	Estimates of the Ger- man Empire 1903	1d.	2952	Chicago 1902	1d.
2959	Germany 1902	1½d.	2942	New Orleans	2½d.
	Greece:		2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Vir- ginia, and Kentucky 1902	1½d.
2957	Cyclades 1902	1d.	587	<i>Coal Industry of the United</i> <i>States in 1901</i>	2d.
2953	Morea, and Provinces of Acarmania and Ætolia 1902	1d.		Mexico:	
2947	Thessaly	1½d.	2925	Mexico 1901	2½d.
	Italy:		2951	Mexico City 1902	2½d.
2930	Finances of Italy ... 1902	1½d.			
2933	Italy 1901	3d.		AMERICA, SOUTH—	
2936	Naples 1902	1½d.		Argentina:	
2935	Venice 1901-02	1½d.	2940	Argentine finances 1901-02	1½d.
	Portugal:			Brasil:	
2954	Portugal 1902	1½d.	2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	1½d.
	Russia:		2928	Rio de Janeiro ... 1901	1½d.
2943	Odessa (Supplementary) 1901	1½d.		Chile:	
	Servia:		2946	Coquimbo 1901	1½d.
2958	Servia 1902	1d.		WEST INDIES—	
	Spain:		2927	Hayti 1901	1d.
2924	Bilbao 1901	2½d.		ASIA—	
	Turkey:			Siam:	
2950	Constantinople ... 1902	2d.	2929	Chiengmai 1901	1d.
2932	Crete 1901	1d.		PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899-1901	2d.	2937	Samoa 1902	1d.

*Government Publications.***Treaty Series.**

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.		Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries	½d.
	France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1d.
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	United States of America:	
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska	½d.
	ASIA—	
	Corea:	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	½d.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C. :—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½d.
378	British Guiana	2½d.
379	Mauritius	3½d.
380	Basutoland	3d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2½d.
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½d.
—	Cyprus	3d.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.

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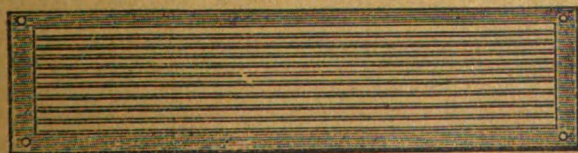


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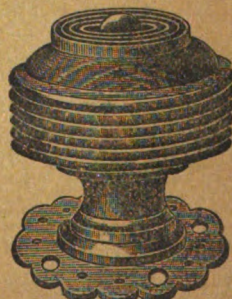
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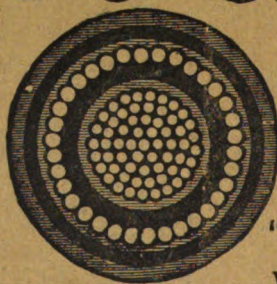
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No. 336.

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THE

Board of Trade Journal



(With which is incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

MAY 7, 1903.

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LONDON :

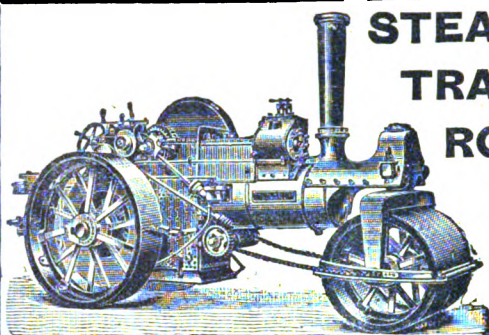
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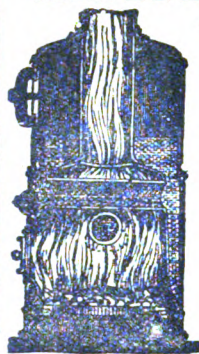
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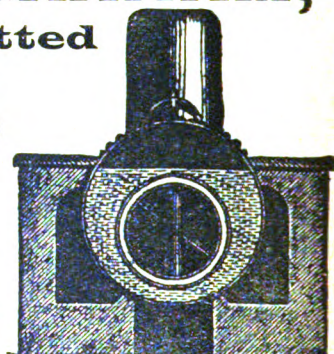
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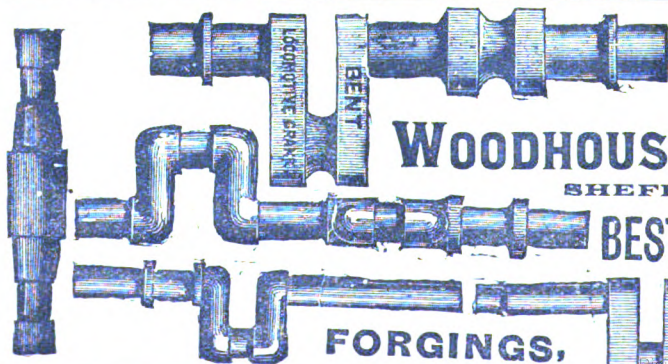
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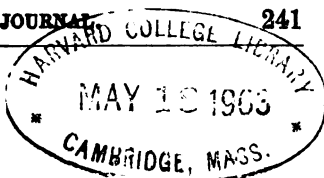
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SHEFFIELD.

BEST TOOL STEEL

FORGINGS,

SHAFTS, &c.



THE

Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. XLI.]

May 7, 1903.

[No. 336.]

All applications respecting subscription to the "Board of Trade Journal," or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London, to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. iv. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office on pp. 286-7.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on pp. 282-4.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive	tenders from such persons as may be willing to
Tenders for	supply cast-iron chairs (5,445 tons) and steel
Railway	axles for carriages and waggons for use on the
Material.	Indian State Railways.

The conditions of contract may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), or may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W. Tenders are to be delivered at that office by two o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 12th May, after which time no tender will be received.

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—continued.

Lane, London, E.C., marked "Tender for Pig-iron," not later than 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th May.

The Company reserves to itself the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

The Board of Trade have been notified by the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, that the Company is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of:—

<p>Tenders for Locomotives, Goods Waggon, &c.</p>	<p>1. Locomotives (5), six wheels, coupled with tenders.</p>
--	--

2. Carriage underframes (23), covered goods waggon of steel (70), underframes for covered goods waggon (43).

3. Wheels and axles, disc and spoke, 543 pairs.

4. Laminated bearing springs (1,320).

Specification and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's offices, 55, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Tenders, addressed to the Chairman and Directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, marked "Tender for Locomotives," or, as the case may be, must be left with the Managing Director of the Company not later than 12 noon, of Tuesday, the 19th May.

The Company is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

A charge, which will not be returned, will be made of 2l. for each copy of specification No. 1, and of 1l. for each copy of Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

The drawings of the locomotives may be inspected at the office of Sir George B. Bruce, No. 3, Victoria Street, Westminster; and copies of the drawings of the rolling stock, wheels and springs, may be obtained at the same address on payment of 5s. per sheet.

BRITISH INDIA—BURMA.

The "Indian and Eastern Engineer" for April announces that tenders will be received up to the 26th June next by the Locomotive and Carriage Superintendent of the Burma Railways Company, Limited, Insein, Burma, for an electric installation, of which full particulars, including conditions of contract, specification and form of tender, may be obtained on application to the Superintendent by persons who may be desirous of submitting tenders for the same.

Openings for British Trade.

CEYLON.

The Government of Ceylon from time to time requires supplies of open wove bleached bandages 6 yards by 2 inches, and a sample of the pattern preferred has been lodged with the Crown Agents for the Colonies. This sample can be seen by any British manufacturer on personal application in Downing Street, and quotations may be sent in to the Crown Agents up to the 30th May. Those firms who have already been communicated with by the Crown Agents need not of course apply again.

In the "Ceylon Observer" of 2nd April a planter draws attention to the need for some kind of machine for husking areca nuts. He says that he is a grower of arecas in large quantities, and he finds, in common with others similarly situated, that without a machine to husk them, when ripe or in a dried state, he is at a disadvantage, and the village moorman has the greatest benefit from the labour and time and money expended. He wonders whether some inventive genius can produce an "areca husking machine" by hand power, for, if so, he predicts a large sale of such machines.

CANADA.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Enquiries relating Offices, Victoria Street, S.W., where further to Canadian Trade. information may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—An enquiry has been received from the north of England for names of Canadian lumber firms in a position to export 32-inch spade and shovel box or D-handles (English pattern); also shovel stems 32, 29, and 34 by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter.

Application has been made by a London firm for the addresses of the leading houses in Canada dealing in whips, rattan (reed) furniture, and brushes.

A London firm of tea buyers and shippers wish to find agents in Canada open to do business in this connection. They are also prepared to act as buying or selling agents for good Canadian firms.

An English firm ask to be referred to leading saddlers and saddlers' hardware dealers in Canada with a view to introducing a patent article likely to be adopted.

* **Canadian Enquiry.**—A Canadian drug firm having connections throughout Canada and Newfoundland wish to take up the

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—continued.

representation of English manufacturers of fruit ethers, vanillin, essential oils and proprietary articles.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the Canadian Enquiries relating Section of the Imperial Institute, from the to Canadian Trade. Curator of which Section further particulars may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A manufacturer of grain-weighing machinery, sack stands and other specialities wishes to be placed in communication with a responsible Canadian firm prepared to deal in this class of goods.

A firm of mica merchants ask for addresses of leading Canadian producers of mica.

A firm of manufacturers' agents, long established and possessing influential connection, wish to secure representation of a Canadian manufacturer of chair materials in large quantities.

A timber merchant wishes to hear from a Canadian manufacturer who can actually supply doors, shelving, carpenters' clear pine, poplar, &c.

Canadian Enquiries.—A British Columbia shipping firm ask to be put into communication with United Kingdom firms requiring supplies of sashes, doors and similar goods made from Douglas fir (Oregon pine), more particularly for South Africa and other export trade.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

EGYPT.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of 22nd April contains a notification to the effect that tenders will be received at the headquarters of the Coastguard Administration at Cairo, up to noon on the 1st July, for the supply of general stores, clothing, wood, &c., in such quantities as may be required by the Administration, for a period of one year.

The specifications and conditions of contract can be seen and samples inspected at the Coastguard Magazine, Alexandria, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon any day, except Sundays and general holidays.

Tenders must be submitted on the printed form provided for the

Openings for British Trade.

purpose, which can be obtained at the Magazine of the Administration and must be accompanied by stamped paper and addressed:—

“The Director-General, Coastguard Administration, Cairo, and marked “Tender for the supply of”

It should be noted that the [actual] tenderers must be persons residing in Egypt (Alexandria). As a guarantee of good faith, each tender must be accompanied by a guarantee from a local bank to the amount of 10 per cent. on the total value of the offer.

All tenders must be in Egyptian money (viz., 975 millièmes to the pound sterling) and in metric weights and measures, as laid down in the printed specification. The price must be for free delivery at the Coastguard Magazine, Alexandria (Arsenal). Only stores imported from abroad with a declaration on the bill of lading that they are for the use of the Coastguard Administration, will be exempted from the 8 per cent. Customs duty.

No tender offered to this Administration, in the name of more than one person or a firm, will be accepted unless accompanied by a certified copy of the Act of Association. This Act must indicate clearly the name, nationality, and residence of each partner of the firm and powers as regards encashments, &c., of each individual member of it.

Unless the above formalities are complied with, tenders will not be considered.

The Administration reserves to itself the right to accept the whole or part of, but does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

NORWAY.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, transmitting particulars of a call for tenders by the Norwegian State Railways for the supply of bolts and nails to the Ofoten line, as follows:—

Bolts—about 19,000 kilogs., namely:—

5,000 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. holdfasts, with slit 60 cm. long.

3,000 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. ” ” 40 cm. ”

5,200 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. ” ” 30 cm. ”

1,250 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. screw-bolts, with heads and nuts 55 cm. long.

The 60 cm. and 40 cm. long holdfasts to be provided with three holes, and the 30 cm. long holdfasts with two holes, for 6 in. nails.

Further there are required:—

35 half-boxes of 3 in. nails.

60 ” 4 in. ”

30 ” 6 in. ”

30 ” 7 in. ”

Tenders for these goods, marked respectively “Bolte” and

*Openings for British Trade.***NORWAY—continued.**

"Spiger," will be received up to noon of Friday, the 15th May, at Overingeniörens Kontor, Narvik, Norway. Telegrams must bear the mark immediately after the address. For further particulars application should be made to the office of the Railway Director in Christiania, or the office of the Head Engineer, in Narvik, as above.

Apart from the usual Customs duties, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

H.M. Consul-General at Christiania further reports that tenders in sealed envelopes, marked "Vognudstyr," for the delivery of 155 metres of "Moquette" stuff for covering seats, and 1,785 metres of woollen curtain stuff in various qualities, will be received at "Styrelsens Expedition, Kontor, Statsbanerne, Christiania," up to 3 p.m. of Tuesday, the 26th May.

The right is reserved to accept part or all of any tender, or to refuse them all.

Conditions and samples may be inspected at the office of the Director of Machinery, Norwegian State Railways, Christiania.

Apart from the usual customs duties, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

In a later despatch, the Consul-General reports that tenders are invited for various details of army equipment, as follows:—

Tenders for Army Equipment.		
4,000 metres	dark blue dress cloth	} 140 cm. wide.
10,000 "	light cloth	
1,000 "	light grey cloth for cloaks	
2,500	blankets.	
8,000 metres	blue-striped linen.	
20,000 "	twill 3 rd .	
10,000 "	" 3 rd .	
5,000 "	cloth for shelter tents.	
5,000 "	tent cloth, T ³ .	
500 "	" " T ² .	
1,000 "	" " T ¹ .	
6,000 "	buldan (a kind of canvas).	
2,000 "	canvas cloth.	
2,000	infantry waist belts.	
2,000	bayonet sheaths.	
6,000	cartridge pouches.	
100	sword belts for artillery N.C.O's.	
500	pieces of skin for riding breeches.	
250 "	" " " "tongues" (Plöser).	

Openings for British Trade.

NORWAY—continued.

- 2,000 combs (Kardasker).
- 1,000 curry combs.
- 1,000 halters.
- 1,000 knapsacks.
- 4,000 clothes brushes.
- 4,000 boot brushes.
- 3,000 aluminium canteens.
- 5,000 tin plates.
- 20,000 tent pegs.

The patterns and conditions may be inspected at the "Hovedforvalte" depôt.

Tenders sealed and marked "Lererance til Armeen" must arrive at the Generalintendant's Office, Christiania, before 10 a.m. on Monday 25th May.

Apart from the usual Customs duties a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

The Consul-General also reports that tenders will be received up to the 15th May, at the "Marinens Intendantur," Karljohansvern, Norway, for the delivery of the following quantities of soap and soda:—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Tenders for | |
| Soap and Soda. | |
| 20,000 kilogs. of soft soap | half in $\frac{1}{8}$ barrels and half in $\frac{1}{4}$ barrels, |
| 200 " " | toilet soap, |
| 4,000 " " | soap in bars, |
| 5,000 " " | soda. |

The articles supplied are to be of good quality and delivered free at Karljohansvern. About one-fifth must be delivered before the 30th May, the rest gradually as required up to 31st March, 1904.

The soft soap must be delivered free in kegs. The soap will not be received in old butter kegs.

The "Intendantur" is not obliged to take the lowest or indeed any tender.

In cases where the tender deals with many kinds of stuff, the right is reserved of taking only one.

The tenders must hold good for 8 to 10 days. The head "Intendantur" can demand a guarantee of delivery.

If the delivery is not carried out by the fixed time the "Intendantur" has the right to buy goods from another firm at the cost and risk of the deliverer.

Tenders, which must be sent in before the above date, must be enclosed in sealed envelopes marked "Anbud paa Sæbe and Soda," and will be opened on 15th May at 1 p.m., and tenderers or their representatives may be at the place and hear the prices read.

Apart from the usual Customs duties, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

Openings for British Trade.

FRANCE.

In his recent report, the British Vice-Consul at St. Malo states that farmers there are taking to a plough known as the Brabant, a plough with a double turn furrow, which leaves a perfectly flat surface, with no open furrow, and can be worked by one man even with three horses. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,955.*)

Ploughs.

FRANCE—MADAGASCAR.

According to the "Politique Coloniale" (Paris), a report has recently been made by the Governor-General of Madagascar, at the request of the French Colonial Office, upon the trade in cotton piece-goods in that island.

Cotton Goods.

It is stated that up to the time of the French occupation this trade was entirely in the hands of the British and Americans. It is only during the last two or three years, owing to Tariff protection, that France has commenced to supplant her competitors.

It appears from the report that the natives of the islands set greater store upon colour than upon design, the following being the more favoured in order of preference:—Blue, rose, green, straw-yellow, cream-yellow, and iron-grey.

In the central districts the young women have a liking for delicate rose, sky-blue, or yellowish tints. Generally speaking, bright-coloured stuffs find a ready sale.

It is remarkable, however, that in the Tuléar region, on the west coast, the natives show a marked preference for dark-hued cloths.

Flowers are a favourite design, and the report lays stress on the fact that in striped patterns the stripe should always run longitudinally.

It must not be forgotten that so much is thought of the colours of the goods that even quality must, if necessary, be sacrificed.

PORTUGAL.

With reference to the announcement which appeared on p. 473 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th March last, regarding the construction and working of a railway from Regna by Villa Real to Chavés and the frontier, it is to be noted that the "Diario do Governo" of 27th April contains a Decree confirming the estimate of 305,104 milreis, or about 50,852*l.*, for the section of the line between Regna and Villa Real, not including fixed and rolling stock, and ordering that the construction of the section be immediately commenced, either by sub-sections or by piece-work.

Railway Construction.

Openings for British Trade.

PORTUGAL—continued.

The "Diario do Governo" of 1st May, contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened within not less than 90 days, for the construction and working, in the terms of paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Law of 14th July, 1899, of the following metre gauge railways:—
 Valley of the Lima (Vianna to Ponte da Barca),
 Of the Upper Minho (Braga to Monção),
 Braga to Guimarães.

The plan of the competition and the respective tables of requirements are to be drawn up in harmony with the bases which form part of the Decree, and which are given in the "Diario." A provisional deposit of 4,000 milreis, or about 666*l.*, is required to qualify any tender.

The "Diarios" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

GREECE.

On p. 256 will be found an article relating to British trade in the Morea, in which it is stated that if British manufacturers could see their way to reduce the quality and price of many classes of goods, such as hardware, cutlery, china, crockery, glassware, leather goods, carpets, &c., they would obtain a large share of the trade which is now in foreign hands.

H.M. Consul at Syra reports that cotton, linen and woollen stuffs coming from the United Kingdom are chiefly in the hands of Greek merchants established in Manchester, and there is little room for competition. Irish linen and laces, however, could be worked up more. Italy and Belgium are making headway as competitors in these markets for tissues of all kinds, the quality and price being spoken of in favourable terms. In shirtings the United Kingdom easily holds her own.

The Consul further reports that a new departure was started in 1902 in the shape of a factory for making linseed oil and chemical products, for which Austro-Hungarian machinery is employed on the "Merz" system, with an average output, so far, of 300 gallons per diem, at a price of 3*s.* 5*d.* per gallon. The linseed is imported from Marseilles, Antwerp and Asia Minor. The outlay on this establishment was about 6,250*l.* Colza oil is also being produced at 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon.

A new yarn factory is being established at Syra, which is expected to be in full swing in the summer. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,957.*)

*Openings for British Trade.***BULGARIA.**

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Sofia, reporting the desire of the "Syndicat des Producteurs d'Essence de Roses" at Karlovo to enter into relations with buyers in England. The object of this society, it is said, is to produce a perfectly pure oil and restore the credit of this Bulgarian industry.

Buyers Wanted for "Essence of Roses."

Further particulars may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

SERVIA.

In his recent report on the trade of Servia for the year 1902, the British Vice-Consul at Belgrade gives the following table showing the average value of the different articles of import into Servia for five years, the average value of British imports for the same time, and the value of British imports in 1901 :—

Articles.	Average Yearly Import from 1896-1900.		British Imports in 1901.
	Total.	British.	
	£	£	£
Paper... ..	39,006	10	26
Agricultural produce	78,102	—	—
Wool and hair	162,240	22,506	9,773
Wood and timber	86,101	53	85
Animals and animal produce	25,962	15	—
Provisions and beverages	39,260	231	153
Stone, earth and glass	90,375	165	68
Metals	181,528	3,403	5,651
Hides and leather	133,942	9,373	6,648
Chemical produce and colours	101,612	2,087	1,687
Colonial produce, groceries	137,791	12,065	9,399
Oils and fatty substances	65,139	9,106	7,815
Machinery, instruments, &c.	103,694	2,257	156
Cotton, hemp, flax, &c.	328,588	129,686	114,988
Silk	29,404	189	189
Jewellery and fancy goods	47,391	264	123
Haberdashery and embroidery	112,130	146	481
Animal and other waste	125	—	—
Total	1,762,390	191,506	157,242

In several of the above-mentioned articles it ought to be possible to increase the value of British imported goods. The

Openings for British Trade.

value of imported paper, for instance, has steadily increased every year from 31,789*l.* in 1896 to 52,698*l.* in 1901, while British paper imported during the latter year was only valued at 26*l.*

The falling-off in British woollen goods is accounted for by the opening of several cloth mills in Servia, which turn out all kinds of all-wool cloths of the second quality for the home market, the wool for which is dyed and spun on the premises. There is every reason to expect that the importation of raw wool may increase with the further prosperity of the Servian cloth mills, but in 1901 the United Kingdom had no share in this branch of the trade.

The value of window glass imported is over 7,600*l.*, all of which comes from Austria-Hungary and Germany, the British form of packing having prevented the development of business, the difference being that cases, packed in the form which prevails in Servia, can be handled single-handed, whereas the larger British cases necessitate the employment of another hand. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,958.*)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

H.M. Consul at Chicago in his recent report states that in 1900 the United Kingdom and East Indies together

Indian Teas. were credited with 5½ per cent. of all tea importation into the United States, while in

1902 this increased to over 10 per cent.

The Consul adds that this is a much more satisfactory return than had been expected, and it seems that there is at last a prospect of Indian teas getting the recognition in the American market that their quality warrants.

In the same report H.M. Consul states that the china and earthen-

China and Earthenware. ware trade of Chicago has increased about 15 per cent. in 1902, and has been marked by the great demand for better goods. It is reported

that fine German and Austrian china has replaced the semi-porcelain ware of the United Kingdom and the United States in the Chicago market, but more French china was sold than before.

The direct imports of china and earthenware into Chicago increased 50,000*l.* in value over 1900, and about 30,000*l.* over 1899, but the imports from the United Kingdom are about the same as in 1900, and show a loss of over 25,000*l.* compared with 1899.

The total import of earthenware and china into the United States has increased about 130,000*l.* in value since 1900, and in that time the imports from the United Kingdom fell off 25,000*l.*, so that Chicago has proved a better market than other parts for this class of British goods. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,952.*)

Openings for British Trade.

MEXICO.

According to a report by the Belgian Legation at Mexico City, published in the "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 25th April, the Mexican Government is at present considerably interested in the question of irrigating the Mexican central plateau. In the course of a recent interview with the members of the Mexican Agricultural Society, General Cosío, the new Minister of Fomento, declared that the question of irrigation would receive the most careful attention during his term of office. He has in view several projects consisting mainly of the construction of large reservoirs, and, it is said, has resolved to call a meeting of experts to consider the best means of carrying out the different works. The projected construction of reservoirs should be of interest to cement manufacturers.

ARGENTINA.

H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres reports that there is an excellent opening for all appliances connected with or required in agriculture and grazing, machinery, tools, harness, seeds, bags, twine, fencing wire (plain and barbed), iron posts and droppers, gates, padlocks (insets), cattle brands, scales, windmill and other pumps, troughs, pipes, vet.'s instruments and books, sheath knives, tools, sheet iron and enamelled ware. Probably the Canadian and Australian types would suit better than the British.

In a lesser degree, and for the million or so people who live in towns, are wanted, besides the usual necessities of life, iron pillars and beams for house building, baths and all kinds of up-to-date sanitary fittings, electric lifts, lights and bells, floor and wall tiles, water and oil paints and wall papers, brickmaking and stone working machinery.

The Consul further reports that only 28 automobiles were imported into Buenos Ayres last year, but the appreciation of them is increasing, and a demand, no doubt, will arise, especially for electric cars in the town and other kinds outside.

For the first time, during the wheat harvest now ending, Australian harvesters were used. The machines were brought over by representatives of the makers, very energetically pushed by them, proved to be suited to the country, and to effect a great saving in

Openings for British Trade.

ARGENTINA—*continued.*

expense, and numerous orders for the machines were the result. These machines have come to stay.

Ostrich farming is an industry that could be developed. Several lots of African birds have been long enough in the country to prove that they do very well in it. The results obtained are as good as those given by sheep. There is no real market for the feathers at present, and it is probable that were the industry developed it would turn out profitable. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,961.*)

The "Boletin Oficial" of Argentina of 2nd April contains a copy of a Presidential Decree, approving an agreement made under date of 17th February last, between the Minister of Public Works and the executive power of the province of Jujuy, for the construction of works for the water supply in the city of Jujuy.

**Water Supply
Works.**

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION.

FRANCE.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the programme of an International Exhibition of Hygiene, Life-saving, Sports, Fishery, and Ambulance, which is to be held in Paris from September to November, 1904, at the Grand Palais des Champs-Élysées.

Full particulars may be obtained on application to the "Commissaire Général, Exposition Internationale de 1904, 3, Rue des Moulins, Paris.

**International
Exhibition of
Fishery, Hygiene,
Life-saving,
Ambulance and
Sports at Paris.**

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Turkey.—In the report for the year 1902 presented at the annual general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople, held on the 22nd April last, it is stated that, with the view of affording further facilities to British traders interested in Turkey, the Directors of the Chamber have appointed Mr. David Allatini, 23, St. Mary Axe, E.C., Honorary Secretary for the Chamber in London.

Chicago District—Canada.—In his recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 2,952), H.M. Consul at Chicago states that a great many houses in that city are making arrangements to extend their export business, and, with the increased manufacturing capacity, keen competition may be looked for both in the United Kingdom and colonies as well as in foreign countries.

Many more firms are likely to start branches in the United Kingdom and will, if thought practicable, manufacture there, while strong efforts are being made to control the trade of South Africa and other British colonies.

The business methods of Canada are similar to those of the United States, and a number of young Australians are in that country learning the business methods and studying the machinery used in the States for mining, irrigation, &c. Many of the conditions in the United States are like those of the colonies, and the same machinery and methods can be used there as can be seen in the Western States of America in operation in mines and on large farms and in the semi-arid districts. The labour conditions on farms are also similar, labour being highly paid and scarce, and a close study of all labour-saving methods on farms is also being made.

The careful study of the business and manufacturing methods of the United States and the adoption of those which may be suitable to the country where trade is sought is of great importance and should be encouraged. Many of the methods are unsuitable for the United Kingdom, but are indispensable to increasing or holding trade in those parts of the world where the American merchant is active, and a study in the United States for several months would, in most cases, be found of great advantage. A short stay of a day or two in a large city of the United States is worse than useless, as anyone unaccustomed to the ways at first only sees the bad points and learns nothing.

The Consul also states that several firms in the United Kingdom have started branches of their manufacturing business in the United States in order to compete with the American manufacturer under the same conditions, which, while reflecting credit on their enterprise and foresight, cannot be looked upon except as future opposition to British trade in export business.

Further on in his report the Consul writes that another development in business is the increasing investments of American money

British Trade Abroad.

in Canadian enterprises. These investments are in iron and coal mining, sugar refining, lumber, agricultural machinery of all kinds, machine shops, meat packing, piano making, furniture, cold storage, woollen mills, paper mills and agriculture of all kinds.

While these manufactures will all be of great value to the prosperity of Canada, they must be taken into consideration as competitors with trade from the United Kingdom in export business. They are, of course, started to supply the increasing demand in Canada for American goods and to avoid the duty payable on imports, but also with the view that if, at any time, a duty should be placed on imports into the United Kingdom, these factories would get the benefit of any rebate made to British possessions.

The Morea.—In his report on the trade of Morea and the Provinces of Acarnania and Ætolia for the year 1902, H.M. Consul at Patras writes:—

“It is satisfactory to be able to report that there is no falling-off in the value of goods of British origin and manufacture imported into this Consular district. Almost all British linen, cotton and woollen goods hold their own against all comers, even at comparatively higher prices, and this is due to the fact that consumers, with whom these goods have long been prime favourites, have found out by experience that the dearer article is the cheapest in the end.

“It has been often stated in these reports that British goods *ipso facto* command a decided preference in this country. The Greek consumer is imbued with the idea that there is no trickery about the British article, that it really is what it claims to be, and that in strength, durability and finish it is superior to foreign goods. But, of course, price is always a great consideration, and most articles of foreign manufacture are so much cheaper than the British that they are sometimes preferred in consequence.

“Many importers in this district have informed me that if British manufacturers could see their way to reduce the quality and price of many classes of goods, such as hardware, cutlery, china, crockery, glassware, leather goods, carpets, &c., they would obtain a large share of the trade which is now in foreign hands.

“The absence of British commercial travellers is also much felt by importers, who find it difficult to wade through voluminous price lists which are made out in English, and in British currency and measures, whereas an intelligent traveller on hearing of their requirements could immediately point out British goods of a class and price which could meet foreign competition.

“As a case in point I may mention that latterly British china, crockery and cutlery, having been obtainable at cheaper prices, has to some extent supplanted its foreign rivals.” (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,953.)

British Trade Abroad.

Syra.—In his recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 2,957), H.M. Consul at Syra writes:—

"The former prosperity of this island has had to give way by force of circumstances, duly recorded in my annual reports, to the steady development of the Piræus and other Greek ports; therefore any marked increase of trade can hardly be expected in this district. However, if British traders wish to retain their hold on these markets I am still of the opinion that it would certainly be advantageous if a smart commercial traveller, able to speak French, were to pay an occasional visit to this part of the world, not merely as a representative of a single firm and only one class of goods, but of various manufactures, such as oils, paints, dyes, chemicals, soaps, perfumery, cutlery, plated goods, hardware, rope, hats, yarns, cotton stuffs, hosiery, needles and haberdashery of all kinds, silks, cretonnes, machinery, earthenware and glass. . . .

"With regard to the question of British weights, measures and money, my long experience urges me again to suggest the employment of the metric system, and French translations of trade circulars and catalogues for the Levant, stating, where possible, f.o.b. or c.i.f. An attempt might be made to render quotations as easy of comprehension as possible and to offer all reasonable facilities.

"I shall be pleased to welcome and afford all possible assistance to any representatives of British firms who care to make Syra a port of call in their European tours, and answer as fully as possible any letter of enquiry seeking information respecting trade and commerce.

"I should like to draw attention to difficulties through non-payments or bad debts and local lawsuits, alike expensive and of long duration, which could be avoided in most cases, if the Consul's advice had been asked for at the beginning. As a rule Consuls are requested to intervene when it is too late and good money has been thrown away after bad."

Havre.—H.M. Consul-General at Havre, in his recent report (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,960), writes:—

"In this Consular district British goods are always in demand, and it is the high protective tariff of France which makes an increase in business such a difficult matter. Havre is, however, so easily accessible from the United Kingdom that it might be worth while for firms desiring to open up trade with this part of France to send over a representative to consult with me on the spot. This course has been adopted on several occasions during the past year, with the result that orders have been placed by local firms with British houses. So far as Normandy is concerned, the practice of an occasional personal visit from representatives of British firms is, I think, capable of extension, and it might be made use of by firms who do not find it necessary to go to the expense of sending

British Trade Abroad.

regular commercial travellers abroad. But before this step is taken I request that notice may be taken of the following advice:—

“(1) The excellent reputation which British goods now enjoy on the Continent should, at all costs, be maintained. Any depreciation in the quality of British goods would have the immediate effect of reducing the demand for them.

“(2) The French Customs Tariff (except for wines and spirits) is based, to a very great extent, on the actual weight of the articles imported. This is, of course, what might be expected in the case of raw material, but it is not always understood that the same principle is frequently adopted in calculating the amount of duty payable on manufactured goods. Whenever, therefore, it is possible to do so, without detracting from the quality of the goods, an endeavour should be made to secure lightness in weight.

“(3) The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade should be consulted with a view to ascertaining what information has already been given in regard to the particular goods in question.

“(4) If there should appear to be an opening in the Havre Consular district, the British firm would do well to write to me for the names and addresses of some of the principal local firms in the particular trade in which the British firm may be interested. It is my practice to give this information to the best of my ability, but it must be understood that I assume no financial responsibility for the status of the firms mentioned by me.

“(5) Having received this information, a direct correspondence should be opened with the French firm. If possible, the French language should be used, and moneys, weights, and measures should be given in the decimal system used in France. This is more important for weights and measures than for prices, as the British monetary system is, as a rule, understood by business men in the north of France.

“(6) In introducing new business in manufactured goods it is generally necessary, before the amount of duty can be determined, that a sample should be sent to the purchaser or to a local agent for examination by the Custom-house authorities. The latter will naturally classify the articles under the headings which they consider to be most suitable from the point of view of the revenue, but a competent agent may sometimes succeed, by giving explanations, in having the goods classified in a manner more favourable to the purchaser.”

THE NEW SUGAR LEGISLATION OF FRANCE, GERMANY, AND AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

With reference to the notice which appeared at pp. 537-42 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 20th March, 1902, containing a translation of the Brussels Sugar Convention, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, copies of the new Sugar Laws recently promulgated by the Governments of France, Germany, and Austria-Hungary, respectively. These Laws are to come into operation in each case simultaneously with the Convention, i.e., on the 1st September next.

The principal provisions of the Laws are as follows:—

I.—France.

From the 1st September, 1903, the internal consumption duty on sugar is fixed at the following rates:—

		Frs.	Cts.
Raw and refined sugars	... 100 kilogs. of refined	25	00
Candies	... 100 kilogs. net weight	26	75

The manufacturing tax of 1 fr. per 100 kilogs. is to be abolished from the same date, and the tax on refining reduced from 4 to 2 frs. per 100 kilogs. Authorisation is also given for the exemption (under conditions to be determined by the Administration) of molasses destined for agricultural purposes and containing a saccharine richness of not more than 50 per cent.

The Customs surtaxes on foreign sugars of any origin are from the same date to be modified as follows:—

		Frs.	Cts.
Refined sugars and raw sugars testing not less than 98 per cent.	... 100 kilogs. net weight	6	00
Other sugars	... " "	5	50

The surtax on candies will be calculated in the proportion of 107 kilogs. of refined to 100 kilogs. of candy, net weight. With regard to molasses and chocolate, the existing provisions in respect of import duties are to remain in force.

The "*détaxes de distance*," or allowances for cost of transport granted to French Colonial sugars imported directly into France and to French sugars despatched under certain conditions to refineries at Atlantic or Mediterranean ports or in the interior, are for the future to be allowed according to the actual cost of transport instead of at the former fixed rates, which rates, however, are not to be exceeded.

Sugars for use in the manufacture of alimentary products for exportation may be introduced into factories specially engaged in such manufacture and utilised free of duty under control.

The direct bounties on exported sugars are to be abolished, together with the system of assessing the amount of the consumption duty on the weight of the beetroot employed in the manufacture of the dutiable sugar, which was found to operate as an indirect bounty by reason of excess yields and allowances for waste in manufacture.

*The New Sugar Legislation of France, Germany, and
Austria-Hungary.*

The dispositions in force prior to the Law of 1884, relative to the assessment of the "*prise en charge*" based on the volume and density of the juice before defecation, are to be again put into operation. The rate of the "*prise en charge*" is fixed at 1,500 grammes per hectolitre and per degree of density above 100° (100° = density of water).

The dispositions actually in operation as to the taxation of raw sugars according to saccharimetric test, as well as those relating to the working of refineries, are maintained in force.

II.—Germany.

From the date when the Brussels Sugar Convention comes into force, the internal tax on sugar in Germany is to be fixed at 14 marks per 100 kilogs. The import duties on foreign sugars on which no premium has been paid in the country of production, are to be levied, from the same date, at the highest rate possible under the Brussels Sugar Convention (i.e., at the rate of the internal duty plus a surtax equivalent to 6 frs. per 100 kilogs. for refined, and 5 frs. 50 centimes per 100 kilogs. for raw). The country of origin of the sugar is to be proved on entry.

The provisions of the existing Sugar Laws relative to the "additional tax" on sugar produced, and to export bounties are to be suspended. It is also provided that sugar which shall have been received into a bonded warehouse before the coming into force of this Law, shall, on coming into the open market or into a sugar factory after that date, repay the export bounty accorded thereon.

III.—Austria-Hungary.

From the date when the Brussels Convention comes into force, the import duty on sugar is to be levied at the highest rate permitted under the terms of the Convention (see above, under Germany). The origin of foreign sugar is to be certified on importation.

After 31st August, 1903, no further export bounty will be granted on Austro-Hungarian sugar, either in its natural form or when contained in sacchariferous articles.

No alteration is made by the present Law in the existing consumption duty on sugar which stands at 38 kr. per 100 kilogs.

The remaining sections of the Law provide for regulating the supply of sugar in the home market in the various districts within the Austro-Hungarian Customs Union, and fixes the sugar "contingent" for the ensuing season (1903-4) for Austria, Hungary, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, respectively. In this connection, a further Law has been promulgated containing regulations for the individual distribution of the sugar "contingent" in

*The New Sugar Legislation of France, Germany, and
Austria-Hungary.*

Austria*, the provisions of which have been summarised in a memorandum by Mr. Bennett, H.M. Commercial Attaché at Vienna, received at the Board of Trade through the Foreign Office.

The system, known as "double contingentirung," consists in granting to each branch of the sugar industry certain definite claims to the prescribed contingent. To refiners is granted the right of placing the sugar contingent directly on the home market, while raw sugar producers alone possess a claim to the raw sugar value of the contingent, which is calculated on the basis of 100 kilogs. of raw being equal to 90 kilogs. of refined.

With regard to raw sugar factories, the maximum net production of each factory during one of the seasons of 1898-99, 1899-1900, 1900-01, is to be taken as the basis for the scale of participation in the raw sugar value of the contingent. At the same time, modifications of this general rule are to be made in favour of the smaller factories. Similarly, the share in the contingent assigned to each refinery is to be fixed by ascertaining the maximum amount of refined sugar placed on the home market by such refinery during one of the seasons of 1898-99, 1899-1900, 1900-01.

The certificates issued every month by the Government showing what portion of the contingent prescribed for any particular season may be set free for home consumption will be distributed among the various raw sugar producers, and must eventually be acquired by refiners before they can exercise their right of placing the refined article on the home market. Mr. Bennett accordingly points out that the system of "double contingentirung" consists in an arrangement under which, on the one hand, refiners receive the right of admitting the sugar contingent to excise, whereas, on the other, raw sugar producers can alone obtain the certificates enabling the refiners to exercise that right; and he adds that, though the Law contains no stipulations as to how refiners are to acquire the necessary certificates, a private arrangement has been come to between the refiners and raw sugar producers, by which the former can acquire the certificates in question on payment to the latter of 3 kr. 30 h. per 100 kilogs. of refined sugar placed on the home market.

* A Bill containing corresponding provisions for Hungary is under the consideration of the Hungarian Legislature.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The Board of Customs have issued a General Order (No. 31/1903), transmitting, for the guidance of officers concerned, copy of an Order made by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in Council, dated the 16th March, 1903, regulating the importation of arms and ammunition into Ireland, under which Arklow is added to the list of places in Ireland at which arms and ammunition may be landed.

**Importation of
Arms, &c.,
into Ireland.**

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of arms and ammunition into Ireland, under which Arklow is added to the list of places in Ireland at which arms and ammunition may be landed.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

A copy of the "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" for 3rd April last has been received, which contains a Proclamation (No. 96 of 1903) setting forth revised regulations to be observed by persons introducing into the Colony by sea, articles "likely to become injurious to the interests thereof."

The regulations, *inter alia*, provide that

1. The introduction into the Colony of trees, plants, and portions thereof—such as cuttings, roots, tubers, and bulbs—and of fruit of all kinds, grown elsewhere than in South Africa is prohibited, except by sea through the ports of the Colony or by post.

2. The importation of the following articles is absolutely prohibited:—

- (a) Grape vines or any portion or fruit of any grape vine, with the exception of vines or portions thereof imported by the Government under such precautionary measures as may be deemed necessary.
- (b) Coffee plants, or eucalypt plants, or any portion thereof, with the exception of seed.
- (c) Stone fruit trees, or any portion thereof, including seeds that were grown or produced in any part of the United States or Canada in which either of the diseases known as peach yellows or peach rosette exists.
- (d) From any, after 1st January, 1904, peach stocks and peach stones from any country whatsoever.

Provision is further made that from and after the 1st January, 1904, the importation of any fruit tree or portion thereof, with the exception of fruit, seed, seedling stocks for budding or grafting purposes, and blight proof stocks for apples, shall be allowed only by special permission from the Minister for Agriculture. No permit shall be granted for the introduction of more than 10 trees or 100

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

cuttings, of any one variety, nor shall permits be issued for more than an aggregate of 100 trees or 1,000 cuttings to any party during one year.

The regulations are not applicable to any consignment imported in *bond* for places beyond the borders of the Colony, nor to canned, dried or otherwise, preserved articles in which there is no longer any plant life.

TRANSVAAL.

With reference to the notices published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 2nd and 16th April, 1903, relating to the suspension of the duties on British South African sugar under Ordinance 8 of 1903, the Board have now received a copy of a Proclamation (No. 9 of 1903) amending the provisions of Ordinances 8 and 12 of 1903 in such a way as to suspend, from 24th April, 1903, the duties on all articles (except spirits, together with flour or wheaten meal, including pollard, manufactured from other than South African wheat), the produce, growth, or manufacture of British South Africa, on importation into the Transvaal.

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

The Board has received a copy of the "Uganda Liquor Ordinance, 1903," (No. 3 of 1903) which was "enacted by H.M. Commissioner for the Uganda Protectorate" on the 2nd March last.

The Ordinance in question provides for the importation, manufacture and sale of alcoholic and distilled liquors in the Protectorate, in terms identical with those published on pp. 593 and 609 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 24th December, 1902, for the British East Africa Protectorate.

A copy of the rules as laid down under the above Liquor Ordinance by H.M. Commissioner on the 10th March last, has also been received, which gives a schedule of the following licenses and fees payable on the importation or sale of alcoholic liquors within the Protectorate as follows:—

LICENSES AND FEES.		Rupees.
For importation of distilled or alcoholic liquors for purpose of sale	...	100
[The holder of a similar license in the East Africa Protectorate is exempted from the payment of this fee.]		
For the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquor, either wholesale or by retail between the hours of 6 a.m. and 12 p.m., to be consumed either on or off the premises	...	600

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

	Rupees.
For the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquors, either whole-sale or retail, between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. (Sundays excepted) to be consumed either on or off the premises	450
For the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquors, either wholesale or retail, between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. to be consumed off the premises	250
For the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquors, wholesale only, between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.	200
An occasional license to the holder of a first or second class license for the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquors in exceptional cases for a limited period at any place other than the premises specified in the license of which he is the holder	5
[Distilled or alcoholic liquors forming part of the estate of a deceased person may be sold by the personal representative of the deceased without payment of any fee.]	

All licenses, whenever taken out, will expire on the 31st December of each year.

MAURITIUS.

The Board of Trade have received, from the Collector of Customs at Port Louis, Mauritius, a copy of a Proclamation (No. 10 of 1903), dated 17th March, 1903, which provides that, in consequence of the existence of cattle plague, the importation from Natal, Basutoland and Cape Colony, into the Colony of Mauritius, of the following articles shall be prohibited:—

- (a) Cattle dead or alive (as defined by Ordinance 39 of 1881), including horses, asses and mules as provided for in Regulation 79 of 1882 (subject to the provisions hereinafter contained).
- (b) Fresh offal, hoofs, horns, bones, horse hair, hairs, raw silk and wool.
- (c) Straw, hay or litter.
- (d) Raw leather, untanned hides, fresh hides.
- (e) Milk, fresh butter, cheese and generally all dairy produce.
- (f) Rags and drills, without including rags packed under hydraulic pressure, conveyed in bales as merchandise.
- (g) Old books and old newspapers.
- (h) Manure and other fertilising products of animal or vegetable origin.
- (i) Live plants and the soil in which they are planted.
- (j) Old and second-hand clothes, gunny bags, new or old.
- (k) Soil of every description, and ballast consisting of earth or mud sand.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

(1) Potatoes, peas, lentils, beans, maize, raw coffee, fresh vegetables and fruits.

All animals dead or alive, except cattle as above defined, and horses, mules and asses may be imported by permission of the Governor on a report of the Director of the Medical and Health Department, and subject, in the case of dogs, to the provisions of Ordinance Nos. 26 of 1845 and 12 of 1867.

The Proclamation No. 67 of 1901, a notice of which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 27th February, 1902, is cancelled.

RUSSIA.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the Russian Customs Department have notified, by a Circular, dated 31st March/13th April, that products distinguishable from coal tar only by the absence of benzine and ammoniacal water are dutiable under Section 83, point 3, of the Tariff, at the rate of 30 copecks per pound (1s. 11½d. per cwt.).

The Board are also in receipt, through the same channel, of information to the effect that it has been explained by a further Circular of the Customs Department that ships' coals are only exempted from the "import pound tax" when contained in the bunkers of a vessel. Coal stored in the hold is subjected to this duty, which is levied at the rate of ½ copeck per pound (4d. per ton).

FRANCE.

The French "Journal Officiel" for the 4th May contains a Presidential Decree, dated the 30th April, providing that citrate of lime shall be exempted from the payment of import duty.

Abolition of
Import Duty on
Citrate of Lime.

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" for the 24th April publishes a Royal Order, dated 4th April, providing that large and small paint brushes of bristle and imitations of bristle shall be dutiable as manufactures of the material of which the handle is composed. Small paint brushes of hair, feathers, textile fibre, and similar materials, shall pay duty as instruments of art, under No. 294 of the Spanish Customs Tariff, at the rate of 2 pes. per kilog. (4l. 1s. 4d. per cwt.)

Tariff
Classification of
Paint Brushes.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SPAIN—continued.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 29th April contains a Royal Order granting facilities for opening special accounts current with the Bank of Spain, by importers of merchandise on which the duty is payable in gold, which will save them having to obtain that metal or its equivalent at a given date on unfavourable terms. Any merchant opening an account for the purpose indicated, with the Bank, can have the equivalent of his payments in currency entered to his credit in gold at once, at the rate which is being charged in the Custom-house for the fortnight then current.

Adverting to the notice on p. 160 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 23rd April, it is to be noted that the "Gaceta de Madrid" of 1st May contains a Royal Order declaring 36·16 per cent. to have been the average rate of exchange (premium of exchange on Paris) during the last fortnight of April, and that the corresponding reduction in the rate of Customs duty payable in gold during the first fortnight of the present month will be 27 per cent.

TURKEY.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the exportation of maize from the Sandjak of Durazzo (Scutari) is prohibited, owing to local requirements, until the 1st/14th July next. Exception, however, will be made in favour of maize for the purchase of which contracts have already been entered into.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 3rd April publishes a summary of the alterations in the through goods rates for civil traffic from South African ports to the Central South African railways, which are to take effect from the 1st

July next.

The "Gazette" containing these particulars, which are too long to quote *in extenso*, may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

RUSSIA.

The "Gazette of Trade and Industry" published by the Russian Ministry of Finance, in its issue of 15th April (28th), states that it appears from statistics collected by the Ministry of Ways and Communications that the total receipts of Russian railways in 1902, amounted to 592,553,471 roubles or 18,586,899 roubles more than in 1901. As, however, the length of line opened to traffic had increased from 53,030 versts in 1901 to 54,075 versts in 1902, the average receipts per verst show a slight decrease, these having amounted in 1902 to 11,085 roubles, or 19 roubles (0·2 per cent.) less than in 1901. A considerable falling-off in receipts took place on the Ussurian, Trans-Baikal, Moscow-Windaw-Ribinsk, Moscow-Kazan and Siran-Viaema lines, whilst increases took place on the Bielgorod-Sumi, Kharkov-Nicolaeiff, South-Western and Lodz lines. The total number of passengers in 1902 amounted to 109,019,682, whilst the amount of goods conveyed was 7,663,706 thousand pounds as compared with 8,303,075 thousand pounds in 1901. The net receipts on the State railways in Russia in Europe showed an increase of 1·2 per cent. in 1902, as compared with 1901, whilst those on private railways decreased by 3 per cent.; in Russia in Asia the receipts increased 12·7 per cent. owing principally to increased traffic on the Siberian Railway.

NOTE.—Rouble = 2s. 1½d.; verst = 663 of a mile; pound = 36 lbs. avoirdupois.

NETHERLANDS.

With reference to the notice published on p. 72 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 9th October, 1902, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Minister at the Hague, copy and translation of an agreement entered into between the Netherlands Government and

Agreement for
S.S. Service
between Java,
China, and Japan.

Shipping and Transport.

a firm of contractors for the maintenance of a steamship service under the Dutch flag between Java, China, and Japan.

Article II. of this agreement provides for the payment of the following subsidies by the State:—

300,000 fl. per annum for the first five years
 250,000 „ „ „ second „
 200,000 „ „ „ third „

The full text of the agreement, together with the translation thereof, may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

FRANCE.

The British Vice-Consul at Rouen reports that the new system of warehouse lighters (Bateaux-Magasins) marks an economy in the general transport of goods, which may be of interest to British merchants. These lighters receive cargoes from ships directly, and a special mooring place free of charge is assigned to them, till the destination of their cargo is settled, when they proceed up or down the river, or branch off into the canal waterways. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,960.*)

TURKEY.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that instructions have been given by the Turkish Government to the Prefecture of the port to enable mail steamers belonging to British steam navigation companies to pass the Dardanelles without stopping at Nagara to land their firmans.

H.M. Ambassador adds that the Khedivial Line is at present the only British steam navigation company which runs mail steamers to Constantinople, but the permission appears to apply to all British mail steamers.

GREECE.

H.M. Consul at Patras reports that all goods for the East coast of Great Britain and for transshipment by sailing vessel to San Francisco and California generally, are shipped *via* Rotterdam and Antwerp, where through rates and transshipment expenses are much below those of all British ports; a good deal of tonnage is thus diverted to foreign vessels which are more constantly than British bottoms on the berth for Continental ports. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,953.*)

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

A copy of the "Canada Gazette" for 11th April, 1903, has been received, which contains an Order-in-Council fixing, for a period of ten years from 7th March, 1903, a royalty of 10 cents per ton of 2,000 lbs. on the gross output of coal in the Yukon territory.

**Royalty on Coal
in Yukon.**

GERMANY.

Referring to the article published on pp. 541-3 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 18th December, 1902, respecting the German Cartel system, H.M. Consul-General at Berlin, in his recent report to the Foreign Office, states that the combination of producers of rolled iron was dissolved in the last quarter of the year 1902. The wholesale trade of Berlin showed the effects of this condition of the market, and the trade in bar iron and iron plate was unsatisfactory; on the other hand that of building iron, in consequence of the comparative prosperity of the building trade, did business with profit.

**Rolled Iron
Producers'
Combination
Dissolved.**

In another part of his report the Consul-General states that in the summer of last year a combination of electrical firms was discussed for the purpose of watching the interests of the trade, and at the end of the year and the beginning of this, combinations of the largest German firms actually took place; first between the Actien Electricitäts Gesellschaft and the Union, then between Siemens and the Nuremberg Schuckert Works, which latter firm had suffered very severely from the disastrous crisis of the previous years. A complete amalgamation is not contemplated, but certain branches are combined in order to cheapen the cost of production. The export prices of electrical manufactures were not remunerative. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,959.*)

**Combination of
Electrical Firms.**

FRANCE.

In his recent report, H.M. Consul-General at Havre states that the amount of German coal imported into that port in 1902 was insignificant in comparison with the imports from the United Kingdom. It continues, however, to arrive in increased quantities, and important contracts have been made for its supply in 1903 to Havre, Caen, Dieppe and Rouen, as well as to places beyond the limits of the Havre Consular district.

**German Coal at
Havre.**

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

The German coal which is now being imported into Havre contains about 25 per cent. of large pieces. Buyers will only purchase on condition that the price is considerably under that of British coal. German coal has been sold there at a quotation of 16 fr. 75 c. (13s. 5d.) c.i.f. and duty, a price which is about the same as that of Cardiff small coal, and considerably less than that of Cardiff "through and through." It is generally agreed that German coal lacks the quality to admit of its competing successfully with the better kinds of Cardiff steam coal, nor is it likely to affect the importation of the best Newcastle steam coal. The freight from Rotterdam to Havre is practically the same as the freight to Havre from either Cardiff or Newcastle. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,960.*)

FRANCE—ALGERIA.

The "Dépêche Coloniale" of the 28th March states that a French trader, during a recent journey in Algeria, discovered in several regions of that colony a calcareous stone of the same density as the alabaster of Valterra (Tuscany). This stone, of a fine grain and of great transparency, will, it is said, take a beautiful polish, and, when treated with manufacturing processes, would rival the most beautiful alabasters of Italy and of Scotland. The regions of Bône, Philippeville, Bougie and Tlemcen are said to be rich in minerals, but unfortunately they are not worked.

The alabaster discovered at Bône (Fort Gênois) belongs to the calcareous group, is perfectly translucent, and is easily worked. The manufacturers to whom specimens of the Algerian alabaster have been submitted are unanimous in their appreciation of the beauty of this stone.

GREECE.

The British Consular Agent at Santorin reports that a British syndicate have just made arrangements for the purchase of several large mines of volcanic cement, intended for exportation abroad in constructing harbour works at various ports. Details of this enterprise will be issued as soon as possible after the working of the mines has commenced. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,957.*)

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 2nd May were as follow :—

Corn Prices.

Wheat	...	...	...	...	26s. 10d.
Barley	...	...	...	...	22s. 1d.
Oats	...	...	...	...	18s. 0d.

For further particulars see p. 278.

A statement is published on p. 279, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 2nd May, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

GERMANY.

In a recent despatch to the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg forwarded particulars of an Exhibition for the Promotion of the Hygienic Supply of Milk, which was opened in that city on the 2nd May, and is to remain open till the 10th idem. The Consul-General is of opinion that, although the Exhibition is merely a local undertaking, a good deal of interest attaches to it from an agricultural, economical, medical and scientific, and also general point of view.

A copy of the programme of the Exhibition may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

FRANCE.

H.M. Consul at Bordeaux, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, reports that the recent frosts in the Gironde and adjoining Departments have done great harm to the vines and fruit trees.

Damage to Vines and Plum Trees by the Recent Frosts.

The weather during March and the early part of April had been most favourable to vegetation, and the vines and plum trees were giving every promise of abundant crops when the severe frosts came, which in many districts almost destroyed all prospects of a vintage and a plum harvest. It is stated by experts that the damage caused may be

Agriculture.

calculated at one-half the vintage and three-quarters of the plum crop. The result has been that stocks of wines and plums are being withheld from sale except at considerably enhanced prices. The damage done extends, roughly speaking, from the Bay of Biscay to the Rhone.

It may be mentioned that many vineyard owners were indefatigable during the frosts in producing artificial smoke clouds, by burning preparations of tar and resin, which, covering the vines during the night, have been instrumental in saving many acres of vines thus treated from the fate of those where no such precautions were taken.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A despatch dated 16th April has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Galveston, reporting that the British steamer "Atlantian" sailed from that port for Delagoa Bay on the 10th April with 2,550 head of two-year-old Texan cattle for use in the Transvaal. The Consul adds that should this consignment prove successful, numerous shipments of Texan cattle from Galveston to South Africa are said to be likely to follow.

In the report of H.M. Consul at Chicago recently issued, it is estimated that there are between 60,000,000 and 100,000,000 acres of land in the Western States of America that can be irrigated. Much of this land is really semi-arid and will grow crops naturally in favourable years, but these only come about once in four.

**Irrigation
Prospects under
the New Law.**

The United States Government have passed a Law that the money received for the sale of these Government lands shall be used for making dams and reservoirs, and for storing and distributing the waste water through the semi-arid district.

Up to the present time the work of supplying water for irrigation has been left to companies, and in many cases it has not had beneficial results, but there are great expectations of the satisfactory working of the new Law. One of the great results will be the number of small farms that will be started on this desert land.

Colorado, Western Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, and Wyoming are the states in the Consular district of Chicago, in which irrigation will play a great part in the future, and where windmills, engines, &c., have been used for some time with very good results. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,952.*)

Agriculture.

ARGENTINA.

H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres reports that the sugar output of Argentina has gone back nearly 8,000 tons, some 20 per cent. This business is said to be suffering from over-production, and a provincial Law has been passed to restrict the production.

The average sugar output for the last five years has been 124,000 tons. The export has been 30,000 tons. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,961.*)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Port-au-Prince reporting that the "Official Gazette" of the Dominican Republic of 14th March last contained a Decree imposing a tax of 10 cents gold per 100 pounds on all sugar produced in the Republic.

**Tax on Sugar
produced in
Dominica.**

MISCELLANEOUS.
UNITED KINGDOM.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 30th April was **Cotton Statistics.** 66,257 and the number imported during the 18 weeks ended the 30th April was 1,855,243.

As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 30th April, 9,389 bales, and for the 18 weeks, 175,199.

For further details see p. 278.

A return showing the number of bales of cotton imported and exported, forwarded from ports to Inland towns, and returned to ports during the month and four months ended 30th April last, will be found on p. 277.

The total number of receiving orders gazetted in England and Wales during the month of April, last was **Bankruptcy Statistics.** 269, as compared with 321 during April, 1902.

For detailed particulars see pp. 280-1.

*Miscellaneous.***ORANGE RIVER COLONY.**

The "Government Gazette" of the Orange River Colony, dated 3rd April, contains the text of an Ordinance (No. 10 of 1903) entitled "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the payment of Stamp Duty and Licenses," which is to take effect from and after the 1st July next.

From a schedule attached to this Ordinance it appears that the amount to be paid for a license as agent of a foreign firm or firms for every three months is 5*l*, and as agent for a foreign firm or firms taking orders for liquors 20*l* for the same period.

The "Gazette" containing the full text of the Ordinance, including schedules of the stamp dues and license fees, may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

With reference to the tables on pp. 277-8 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th February last, showing the value of the trade of the Straits Settlements during the third quarter of 1902, the following tables, based on the official returns of imports and exports recently issued at Singapore, give the figures for the fourth quarter of 1902 and for the whole year:—

Imports (Exclusive of Bullion and Specie).

	Fourth Quarter.		Year.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals, food and drink and narcotics ...	2,723,000	2,788,000	11,165,000	11,001,000
Raw materials—				
Textile	68,000	38,000	218,000	130,000
Metal	1,436,000	1,598,000	5,597,000	5,896,000
Other	1,440,000	1,257,000	5,176,000	4,886,000
Manufactured articles—				
Textile	1,015,000	979,000	3,883,000	3,503,000
Metal	239,000	196,000	892,000	706,000
Other	446,000	395,000	1,684,000	1,520,000
Total	7,367,000	7,251,000	28,615,000	27,642,000

*Miscellaneous.***Exports (exclusive of Bullion and Specie).**

	Fourth Quarter.		Year.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
Live animals, food and drink, and narcotics ...	£ 2,615,000	£ 2,531,000	£ 10,476,000	£ 10,254,000
Raw materials—				
Textile	58,000	33,000	152,000	113,000
Metal... ..	1,418,000	1,478,000	5,946,000	6,354,000
Other... ..	1,863,000	1,156,000	4,964,000	4,876,000
Manufactured articles—				
Textile	568,000	476,000	2,367,000	1,894,000
Metal... ..	86,000	73,000	372,000	285,000
Other... ..	229,000	212,000	915,000	823,000
Total	£ 6,337,000	£ 5,959,000	£ 25,092,000	£ 24,599,000

NOTE.—The dollar value of the whole trade has been converted into sterling at the average (demand) rates for drafts on London for the respective quarters—1s. 10½d. for 1901, and 1s. 7½d. for 1902—but any comparison in sterling is not strictly applicable to goods which have their origin in silver currency countries.

NORWAY.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a circular issued by the Bank of Norway, transmitted by H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, relative to the withdrawal from circulation of certain bank notes.

These comprise 500 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1896 ; 100 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1898 ; 50 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1899 ; 10 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1899 ; and 5 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1899, a full description of which, together with a copy and the translation of the notice, may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA.

With reference to the notice published on pp. 278-9 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th February last respecting the proposed Law to regulate the coinage in Angola, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at St. Paul de Loanda, reporting that the Decree of 15th September, 1896, declaring that only Portuguese silver coins had legal currency in Angola, had practically no effect, as there was little or no foreign silver money in the place.

Miscellaneous.

At the present time the amount of Portuguese silver money in Angola is very limited, but of paper currency and bronze coins there is an abundance, the greater part of the latter being used in trading with the native and in paying the coloured operatives.

The old cumbersome surcharged copper coinage has been gradually withdrawn from circulation, and bronze coins of 5, 10, and 20 reis substituted therefor. This bronze coinage at the present time suffers a discount of 3 per cent. when exchanging it for notes of the bank.

The Loanda Water Company, which was inaugurated in 1889, was empowered by the Government to raise its capital of 111,111*l.* by an emission of bronze coinage of 5, 10, and 20 reis, to be circulated in Angola only.

As this bronze coinage is largely used in trading with the natives, the merchants jumped at the idea of putting it into circulation as quickly as possible, and large remittances commenced to flow in from Lisbon; but later on, when many found themselves overstocked with this money and wanted to change it at the Bank for notes, they found that the Bank would not receive it except at a discount of 3 per cent.

A meeting of merchants was convened to protest against the Bank's action, and at the same time to request the Government to stop further remittances. Delegates were nominated to present a petition to the then Governor-General, and in the end a considerable sum of this bronze specie was retained in Lisbon, where it was ultimately put into circulation.

REPORTS OF BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Halifax.—At the monthly meeting of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, held on the 29th April, a letter was read from the Great Northern Railway with regard to certain improvements in the train service to London suggested by the Chamber.

It was agreed to form a sub-committee to consider the question of participating in the St. Louis Exhibition.

Other matters discussed were the new bills relating to trade unions and the higher commercial education scheme at the Yorkshire College.

Walsall.—At the usual monthly meeting of the Walsall Chamber of Commerce, a letter was read from the London Chamber expressing the hope that a local committee would be formed in connection with a proposed Central Committee to deal with the question of the German Tariffs. It was resolved to refer the matter to the Parliamentary Bills Committee.

Other matters considered were:—Proposed New Telegraphic Code, Employers' Liability, and various matters of local interest connected with Railway Rates, &c.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.—April, 1903.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, and Returned to Ports during the Month and Four Months ended 30th April, 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1902.

	MONTH OF APRIL.		FOUR MONTHS ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1903.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
IMPORTS.				
American	266,406	187,991	1,310,652	1,842,278
Brazilian	24,488	37,865	90,308	118,491
East Indian	17,771	4,068	37,424	10,846
Egyptian	34,149	42,606	198,350	212,688
Miscellaneous	7,721	2,662	16,876	17,798
Total	350,595	274,484	1,653,610	1,697,096
EXPORTS.				
American	22,169	17,108	75,622	74,512
Brazilian	5,845	120	16,468	840
East Indian	8,600	664	11,111	4,825
Egyptian	9,408	8,672	55,823	51,528
Miscellaneous	1,281	814	8,618	1,961
Total	42,258	27,378	162,642	133,666
FORWARDED from PORTS to INLAND TOWNS.				
American	229,581	226,684	1,065,875	972,400
Brazilian	15,164	17,905	49,827	46,666
East Indian	5,510	1,886	16,345	4,669
Egyptian	19,887	37,185	121,850	133,826
Miscellaneous	5,191	6,767	21,223	28,799
Total	274,833	289,927	1,274,620	1,185,860
FORWARDED from INLAND TOWNS to PORTS.				
American	608	776	1,798	1,262
Brazilian	—	—	—	—
East Indian	—	—	—	—
Egyptian	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	45	1	52	7
Total	653	777	1,850	1,269

Cotton Returns—continued.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 18 Weeks ended 30th April, 1903.

	Week ended 30th April, 1903.	18 Weeks ended 30th April, 1903.	Week ended 30th April, 1903.	18 weeks ended 30th April, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	52,432	1,489,401	4,147	84,147
Brazilian	—	90,359	515	16,668
East Indian	3,278	37,951	930	12,300
Egyptian	9,479	219,577	3,609	58,449
Miscellaneous	1,068	17,955	188	3,635
Total	66,257	1,855,243	9,889	175,199

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 2nd May, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

			Average Price.					
			Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
			s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 2nd May, 1903	...	...	26	10	22	1	18	0
Corresponding week in—								
1896 ... ..	...	...	25	7	21	0	14	4
1897 ... ..	...	...	28	4	21	5	16	11
1898 ... ..	...	...	12	4	27	8	20	4
1899 ... ..	...	...	25	3	24	5	17	6
1900 ... ..	...	...	25	11	25	3	18	0
1901 ... ..	...	...	26	9	26	4	19	1
1902 ... ..	...	...	29	9	27	5	21	10

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.
Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 2nd May, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 2nd May, 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	12,887	7,295
Sheep and lambs	"	14,946	7,178
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	734	794
Fresh meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	83,869	75,850
Mutton	"	108,696	80,833
Pork	"	9,361	8,434
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	107,558	94,049
Beef	"	6,862	5,590
Hams	"	18,924	34,050
Pork	"	4,837	4,041
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	15,418	14,687
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	13,546	14,180
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	97,676	73,324
Margarine	"	15,514	13,250
Cheese	"	25,502	12,965
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	48	6
" cream	"	88	65
" condensed	"	15,777	15,443
" preserved, other kinds	"	78	49
Eggs	Grt. Hndr.	425,537	340,962
Poultry and game	Value £	9,193	8,427
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	14,782	4,463
Lard	"	48,782	40,284
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	989,916	1,048,820
Wheat-meal and flour	"	855,157	241,285
Barley	"	210,640	269,086
Oats	"	188,288	335,191
Peas	"	27,824	24,127
Beans	"	17,021	47,432
Maize or Indian corn	"	721,240	841,892
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	28,287	24,484
Apricots and peaches	"	—	—
Bananas	Bunches.	94,128	54,214
Cherries	Cwts.	4	88
Currents	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	117	5
Grapes	"	328	426
Lemons	"	2,982	11,123
Oranges	"	174,677	282,075
Pears	"	814	81
Plums	"	—	—
Strawberries	"	—	2
Unenumerated	"	278	1,694
Hay	Tons.	4,118	8,671
Straw	"	833	2,960
Hops	Cwts.	704	543
Locust beans	"	26,720	8,469
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	157,416	184,562
Potatoes	Cwts.	174,289	55,188
Tomatoes	"	18,896	9,981
Unenumerated	Value £	11,879	17,889
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	254	1,468
Preserved by canning	"	2,806	3,148

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales.

Number of Receiving Orders Gazetted in the under-mentioned Periods and in the under-mentioned Principal Trades and Occupations.

	April.		Four Months ended 30th April.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Total gazetted	No. 269	No. 321	No. 1,392	No. 1,353
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations:—				
Builders	25	17	112	91
Grocers, &c.	15	27	96	91
Publicans and hotel keepers, &c....	20	21	94	97
Farmers	13	11	55	72
Bakers	7	8	45	39
Boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers	14	10	41	33
Decorators, painters, plumbers, &c. ...	6	10	87	39
Drapers, haberdashers, &c.	6	9	86	30
Butchers	5	11	35	45
Greengrocers, fruiterers, &c.	2	5	32	34
Tailors, &c.	4	3	28	21
Coal and coke merchants and dealers	1	6	24	15
Fishmongers, poulterers, &c.	2	4	10	21
Confectioners	4	2	20	12
Solicitors	3	2	18	10
Auctioneers	3	4	18	14
Agents, commission and general ...	7	4	18	16
Carpenters and joiners	4	1	17	11
Carriers, carmen, lightermen and hauliers	8	5	17	19
Clothiers, outfitters, &c.	4	2	16	9
Tobacconists, &c.	—	6	15	14
Furniture dealers and makers	1	—	14	13
Cab, omnibus and fly proprietors ...	1	1	14	5
Clerks, commercial and general ...	2	5	12	14
Jewellers, watchmakers, importers, silversmiths, &c.	3	2	12	20
Gardeners, florists, &c.	3	1	12	6
Corn, flour, seed, hay, and straw merchants and dealers	—	—	11	13
Provision merchants, &c.	2	4	11	10

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales—continued.

	April.		Four Months ended 30th April.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations—continued:	No.	No.	No.	No.
Merchants, general	2	—	11	10
Lodging-house keepers	2	2	11	7
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	1	2	10	11
Contractors	5	1	10	5
Hairdressers	1	—	9	6
Officers in Army	3	1	9	3
Blacksmiths, farriers, &c.	—	2	8	8
Printers, booksellers, and publishers	1	2	8	12
Restaurant, coffee and eating-house keepers	1	—	8	3
Wheelwrights	3	2	8	5
Travellers, commercial	4	2	8	10
Saddlers and harness makers	—	1	7	7
Carriage, &c., builders	—	4	7	13
Milliners, dressmakers, &c.	—	1	7	4
Directors and promoters of public companies	1	6	7	11
General dealers	2	4	7	19
China, glass, and earthenware, &c., dealers	—	4	6	6
Chemists, druggists and chemical manufacturers	—	2	5	7
Ironmongers	1	3	5	10
Timber merchants and wood dealers	1	2	5	6
Bicycle, &c., manufacturers and dealers	—	1	4	6
Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses	—	3	4	9
Millers	1	1	4	7
Woollen merchants and manufacturers	1	—	4	4
Stationers	2	3	4	6
Doctors of medicine, physicians, &c.	2	—	4	7
Brokers, stock and share	2	1	4	5
Dairymen, cowkeepers, &c.	—	4	3	12
Architects and surveyors	1	3	3	9
Wine and spirit merchants, &c.	1	1	3	3
Hosiery, gloves, &c.	—	—	2	5
Curriers, tanners, and leather merchants	—	2	2	3
Engineers and founders, &c.	1	1	2	11
Cattle and pig dealers	1	2	2	7
Stone, marble and monumental masons, &c.	1	—	2	1
Fishing smack owners, and masters	1	—	1	1
Cotton spinners and manufacturers	—	—	—	—

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of March, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1901, in two Volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 7d. for the first, and 4s. 10d. for the second Volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and, in the second volume, details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 15th April:—State of the Labour Market in March; Wages Agreement in the South Wales Coal Trade; Labour Legislation in Holland; Report of the American Coal Strike Commission; New German Merchant Shipping Acts; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Prices of Coal and Iron; New Industrial Organisations Registered in 1902; Report of Canadian Department of Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the *Annual Series* issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,960. Havre and District, 1902.

Prospects for British trade.

Directions in which Germans are competing, notably in coal and patent fuel, and in the carrying trade generally.

Disappearance of competition of American coal.

Non-liability clauses in bills of lading.

Comparative tables of principal articles of import and export at all the ports of the Consular district of Havre, with observations as

Government Publications.

to the character of trade and principal countries participating.

Tables showing chief articles

This publication also contains reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Rouen, Tréport and Eu.

No. 2,981. Buenos Ayres, 1902.

Increase of 1.4 per cent. in imports supplied by United Kingdom, making 36 per cent. of total. United States and all European countries show decreases.

Examination of import and export trade, showing articles in which increases or decreases have taken place, and also

This publication also contains reports by the British Vice-Consuls at La Plata, San Nicolas, and Bahia Blanca, together with a note by the British Consular Agent at Port Gallegos, South Patagonia.

No. 2,982. Palestine, 1902.

Trade fairly good, despite cholera epidemic.

Importation of oil engines.

Comparative tables of the

This publication, in addition to the main report from Jerusalem, contains also a report by the British Consular Agent at Jaffa.

No. 2,983. Nicaragua, 1902.

Considerable decline in import trade. Classes of goods in which the United States and Germany are gaining on Great Britain.

Better export trade. Good results of cotton planting.

No. 2,984. Bilbao, 1902.

Slight recovery from depression.

Position of the iron ore industry and of the metallurgical industry and trades.

Prospects of increased trade in machinery, if longer credit be given.

This publication also contains reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Santander, San Sebastian, and Castro Urdiales.

of British and Colonial manufacture imported.

Comparative shipping returns of each port, by countries.

reports by the British Vice-

countries of origin and destination of principal classes of goods.

Hints to traders and capitalists.

Statistical tables of import and export trade, indicating the share of the various countries participating.

principal articles of import and export at Jaffa during 1901-1902.

Returns of principal imports and exports at the ports of Corinto, Greytown, and San Juan del Sur during the years 1898, 1900, and 1902.

Other openings for British trade.

Dock and railway extension. Shipping returns.

Comparative tables of principal imports and exports at Bilbao, showing countries of origin and destination.

Government Publications.

No. 2,965. Amsterdam, 1902.

Shipping trade unsatisfactory,
and imports of Colonial produce
disappointing.

Ymuiden shipping returns.
Statistics of general imports
and exports at Netherland
ports.

Progress of public works.

No. 2,966. French Indo-China, 1902.

Rice and paddy trade in
Annam, Tonkin, and Cochin
China, with tables of export.

Exports of other produce.
Shipping returns.
Rates of exchange.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

South Africa. Papers relating to the Finances of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. [Cd. 1,552.] Price 1s. 6d.

This return deals with the questions of the revenue and expenditure in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony and with the proposed railway extensions in those Colonies. It contains the minutes of the Railway Extension Conference which met at Johannesburg in March last to discuss the building of new lines. A map of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, showing the lines proposed as a result of Conference, is published with the report.

South Africa. Further papers relating to the Progress of Administration in the Transvaal. [Cd. 1,553.] Price 5d.

This return contains reports on the burgher camps and burgher land settlements, with statistics relating to repatriation in the Transvaal. It also comprises reports on the Transvaal Law and Public Works Departments, the former report containing a list of Ordinances promulgated in 1902 and of draft Ordinances in preparation or under consideration, and the latter a statement of the building works, road and bridge works, water supply works, &c, either being carried out or proposed to be carried out in the Transvaal.

Committee on British Forestry. Minutes of Evidence. [Cd. 1,565.] Price 2s. 5d.

This is a return containing the minutes of evidence taken before the Departmental Committee appointed to enquire into and report upon British Forestry, together with appendices and index. The appendices comprise, *inter alia*, some interesting papers on the world's timber supply, the timber production, imports and exports of various countries, &c.

Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the year ending 31st December, 1902. [Cd. 1,560.] Price 1s. 6d.

According to this return 1,096 persons were killed and 6,661 injured on railways in the United Kingdom in the course of

Government Publications.

public traffic in 1902, the corresponding figures for 1901 being 1,171 and 6,740 respectively. In addition, 75 persons were killed in 1902 and 11,158 injured by accidents which occurred upon railway premises but in which the movement of railway vehicles was not concerned, so that the total number of personal accidents reported to the Board of Trade in 1902 by the railway companies of the United Kingdom amounts to 1,171 persons killed and 17,814 injured. The present return contains reports on enquiries held by officers of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade into certain accidents which occurred during the quarter, October to December, 1902.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland. Part I. General Report. [Cd. 1,545.] Price 1s. 5d.

This report deals with the fisheries of Scotland during last year. It notes that the result of the fishing industry in Scotland in 1902 exceeded both in quantity and value that of any year in the recorded history of the industry, the total amount of the catch having been 6,866,000 cwts., valued at 2,502,000*l.*

American Mail Service. Return. 94. Price 1½d.

This return shows the amount of time occupied in the transit of mails in 1902 by steamship between Queenstown and New York, Southampton and New York, and New York and Plymouth, the time taken in each voyage being separately noted.

Sea Fisheries of the United Kingdom, 1902. Statistical Tables and Memorandum. 112. Price 5½d.

This return, which is issued annually by the Board of Trade, contains statistics showing the quantity and value of fish of various kinds landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom in 1902, the number of fishing boats and men employed, the imports, exports, and re-exports of fish and the quantity of fish carried by railway from each of the principal ports of the United Kingdom; a memorandum reviewing the statistics is prefixed to the return. Figures are also given for the latest year available as to the fishing industries of Norway, Denmark, France, Portugal, and Canada. According to the return the total value of fish, including shell fish, landed in the different divisions of the United Kingdom in 1902 was :—

Landed in England and Wales	...	...	£6,816,000
Scotland...	...	...	2,581,000
Ireland ...	...	...	310,000
<hr/>			
			£9,707,000

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in *italics*.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—				
	Denmark:		2962	Palestine 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2934	Denmark (Supplementary) 1901	1 <i>d.</i>		AFRICA—	
	France:		2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2949	Brest 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2948	Somaliland Protectorate 1901–02	2½ <i>d.</i>
2955	Cherbourg "	1½ <i>d.</i>	588	<i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda</i>	½ <i>d.</i>
2941	French Guinea ... 1901	½ <i>d.</i>		AMERICA, NORTH—	
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	½ <i>d.</i>		United States of America:	
2960	Havre "	3 <i>d.</i>	2952	Chicago 1902	4 <i>d.</i>
2966	Indo-China "	½ <i>d.</i>	2942	New Orleans "	2½ <i>d.</i>
	Germany:		2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>
2956	Chemnitz 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	587	<i>Coal Industry of the United States in 1901</i>	2 <i>d.</i>
2945	Estimates of the German Empire 1903	1 <i>d.</i>		Mexico:	
2959	Germany 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2925	Mexico 1901	2½ <i>d.</i>
	Greece:		2951	Mexico City 1902	2½ <i>d.</i>
2957	Cyclades 1902	1 <i>d.</i>		AMERICA, CENTRAL—	
2953	Morea, and Provinces of Acarnania and Etolia 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	2963	Nicaragua 1902	½ <i>d.</i>
2947	Thessaly "	1½ <i>d.</i>		AMERICA, SOUTH—	
	Italy:			Argentina:	
2930	Finances of Italy ... 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2940	Argentine finances 1901–02	1½ <i>d.</i>
2933	Italy 1901	3 <i>d.</i>	2961	Buenos Ayres 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>
2936	Naples 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>		Brazil:	
2935	Venice 1901–02	1½ <i>d.</i>	2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	½ <i>d.</i>
	Netherlands:		2928	Rio de Janeiro ... 1901	1½ <i>d.</i>
2965	Amsterdam 1902	1 <i>d.</i>		Chile:	
	Portugal:		2946	Coquimbo 1901	½ <i>d.</i>
2954	Portugal 1902	½ <i>d.</i>		WEST INDIES—	
	Russia:		2927	Hayti 1901	1 <i>d.</i>
2943	Odessa (Supplementary) 1901	1½ <i>d.</i>		ASIA—	
	Servia:			Siam:	
2958	Servia 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	2929	Chiengmai 1901	1 <i>d.</i>
	Spain:			PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
2924	Bilbao 1901	2½ <i>d.</i>	2937	Samoa 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2964	Bilbao 1902	2 <i>d.</i>			
	Turkey:				
2950	Constantinople ... 1902	2 <i>d.</i>			
2932	Crete 1901	1 <i>d.</i>			
2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899–1901	2 <i>d.</i>			

*Government Publications.***Treaty Series.**

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.	Price.
EUROPE—	
Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries ½d.
France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar 1d.
AMERICA, NORTH—	
United States of America :	
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska ½d.
ASIA—	
Corea :	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field ½d.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½d.
378	British Guiana	2½d.
379	Mauritius	8½d.
380	Basutoland	3d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2½d.
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½d.
—	Cyprus	3d.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1d. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.

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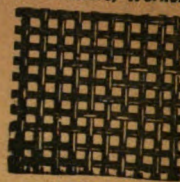
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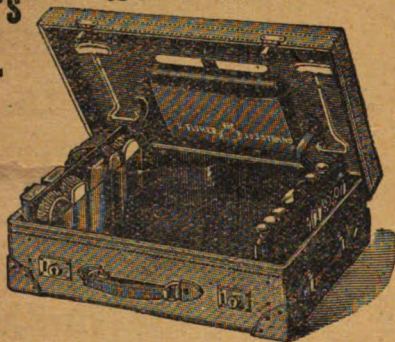
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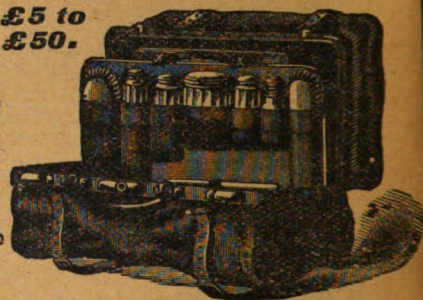
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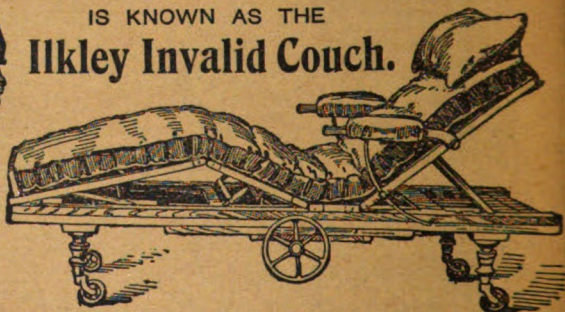
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THE Board of Trade Journal.

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MAY 25 1903

Vol. XLI.]

May 14, 1903.

[No. 337.]

In a notice on p. 336 will be found a statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade having special regard to the recent transfer to the Board of Trade of the Imperial Institute. The main office of the Branch is at present at No. 50, Parliament Street, S.W., with a temporary enquiry office at 49, Eastcheap, E.C., the City Branch of the Imperial Institute.

Attention is directed to the fact that trade representatives of India, and of certain Colonies which are named below, can be consulted at the City Branch on matters relative to the trade of the respective countries.

A Representative for India attends on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

A Representative for the Dominion of Canada attends daily by appointment.

A Representative for Queensland attends daily from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Commercial Agency for New South Wales is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on pp. 331-2.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: ADMIRALTY.

Tenders will be received until 12 o'clock noon on the days named for:—

Tenders for Nails,
Wire,
Ironmongery,
Lamps, &c.

B.	Copper nails ...	...
B.D.	Iron and steel nails ...	...
	Wire ...	...
B.W.	Wrought iron hinges ...	...
B.	Black ironmongery ...	...
Ll.W.	Tin and japanned wares	...
	Steel hoops ...	...

1903.
Monday,
25th May.

A

Openings for British Trade.

B.	Screws	} Friday, 29th May.
B.	Copper articles	...	...
B.	Lamps and lanterns	...	...

Forms of tender, containing conditions of contract and all particulars, may be obtained on personal application at the Contract Department, Admiralty, or by letter addressed "Director of Navy Contracts, Admiralty, London, S.W."

Patterns of copper nails, screws, black ironmongery, lamps and lanterns, copper articles, and tinned and japanned wares, may be seen at the Admiralty Pattern Rooms, 72, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.

Forms of tender may also be obtained and patterns seen of the articles marked:—

"B." at the Admiralty Pattern Rooms, Great Western Chambers, Livery Street, Birmingham;

"D." at the Town Hall, Dudley, on application to the Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Dudley;

"Ll." at the Chamber of Commerce, Llanelly, on application to the Secretary;

"W." at the Chamber of Commerce, Wolverhampton, on application to the Secretary.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply switches and crossings for 75 lb. rails for the Indian State Railways.

**Tenders for
Railway
Material.**

The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 19th May, after which time no tender will be received.

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade to the effect that the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, is prepared to receive Tenders for the supply of:—

937 tons of cast iron chairs, weighing 35 lbs. each; or, as an alternative,

670 tons of cast iron chairs, weighing 25 lbs. each.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 55, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Tenders, addressed to the Chairman and Directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, and marked "Tender for

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—continued.

Chairs," must be left with the Managing Director of the Company not later than 12 noon on Tuesday, the 19th May.

The Company is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

A charge of 10s., which will not be returned, will be made for each copy of the specification.

Copies of the drawings may be obtained at the office of Sir George B. Bruce, 3, Victoria Street, Westminster, on payment of 5s. per sheet.

The Board of Trade have been notified by the East Indian Railway

Tenders for Laminated Springs, Copper Ingots, and Canvas.	Company to the effect that the Company is prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of:—
--	--

1. Laminated engine bearing springs and links,
2. Copper ingots,
3. Canvas,

as per specifications, to be seen at the Company's offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Laminated Bearing Springs, &c.," or as the case may be, not later than 1 p.m. on the 20th May.

The Company reserves to itself the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For each specification a fee of 1l. 1s. is charged, which cannot under any circumstances be returned.

The Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the

Tenders for Railway Stores.	following stores, namely:—
--	----------------------------

Lamps and lamp fittings, crank axles, plate-layers' tools, signal wire posts and pulleys, bib cocks, &c., bearing springs, locomotive boilers. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned.

Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Lamps and Lamp Fittings," or as the case may be, not later than 11 a.m. on the 21st May.

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Openings for British Trade.

CEYLON.

The Government of Ceylon from time to time requires supplies of open wove bleached bandages 6 yards by 2½ inches, and a sample of the pattern preferred has been lodged with the Crown Agents for the Colonies. This sample can be seen by any British manufacturer on personal application in Downing Street, and quotations may be sent in to the Crown Agents up to the 30th May. Those firms who have already been communicated with by the Crown Agents need not of course apply again.

CANADA.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Enquiries relating Offices, Victoria Street, S.W., where further to Canadian Trade. information may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A wholesale seed firm requiring large supplies of wooden boxes, cut to specified sizes, have asked to be placed in communication with Canadian shippers of box shooks.

A London firm of agents and brokers for the sale of provisions ask to be furnished with names of packers of lobsters in the maritime provinces of Canada.

The addresses of casein manufacturers in Canada are asked for by a firm in Scotland.

Canadian Enquiries.—Enquiry has been made by a Canadian firm for the addresses of manufacturers of knife blades (pocket and table).

An Ontario firm of manufacturers of meal and cereal products desire to establish agencies in the United Kingdom, but require that persons undertaking their representation must hold a limited amount of stock in the concern.

Foreign Enquiry.—An import and export house at Malmö (Sweden) have asked to be furnished with a list of leading Canadian shippers of wheat, flour, fruits, cheese, and salmon.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the Canadian Enquiries relating Section of the Imperial Institute, from the to Canadian Trade. Curator of which Section further particulars may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A firm of brokers, already engaged in trade with Canada and in a position to furnish Canadian references, wish to be placed in communication with Canadian packers of canned fruits, vegetables and meats, and also of evaporated apples and similar classes of goods.

Openings for British Trade.

A firm of fruit shippers require a large quantity of box shooks cut to dimensions, and desire to hear from Canadian manufacturers who can quote for prompt delivery.

A London firm possessing a connection among the engineering trade seek the agency of Canadian manufacturers producing suitable specialities for which an export outlet is desired. Canadian references furnished.

An importing house are prepared to contract for large quantities of broom handles, and invite correspondence from Canadian makers who can fill orders.

A London firm prepared to furnish first-class references would like to hear from Canadian shippers of hay.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

NATAL.

The "Natal Government Gazette" of 14th April contains the text of a Bill which it is intended to introduce into the Natal Parliament during the ensuing session, for empowering the Government to raise a loan of 4,000,000*l.* for certain public works, as follows:—

Railways and their equipment.

Harbour works.

Telegraphs.

Other public works of a permanent character.

SOUTH ATLANTIC ISLANDS.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies are prepared to receive applications for Crown licenses for the exclusive occupation of any or all of the uninhabited islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, known as Nightingale, Inaccessible, and Gough Islands, for the purpose of removing guano, &c., or of carrying on fisheries.

Applications for permission to conduct experimental operations for a short period, with a view to taking out a license, will also be entertained subject to the deposit of a sum to be arranged, as a proof of *bona fides*.

Information as to the conditions usually attached to licenses can be obtained from the Crown Agents, and a specimen form of license can be seen at their offices in Downing Street, S.W.

Openings for British Trade.

NORWAY.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, reporting that it has been decided to construct a new dry dock in Arendal at a cost of 900,000 kronen (16,480*l.*). It is to be 500 ft. long, 73 ft. broad, and 30 ft. deep.

The Consul-General adds that negotiations have been opened with an English company with a view to raising the necessary funds; but the local press appears in favour of doing this by means of a Norwegian company, to be floated with a capital subscribed in shares of low value in order that they may be within reach of many.

The dock is to be in Pusnoes Bay, on Tromö.

A despatch has been received at the Board of Trade, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, reporting that tenders are invited by the Director of Lights in Christiania for the supply of coke and coal as follows:—

220 tons of the best gas coke, unbroken, to be delivered free on the quay of Ryvingen lighthouse near Mandal, together with ten tons of the best West Hartley or Cardiff bunker coal. One half is wanted, delivered free, towards the end of June, and the other half in the course of August in this year.

Tenders in sealed envelopes marked "Cokes og Kul til Ryvingen" must be at the "Fyrdirektorens Kontor" before mid-day on 19th May.

BELGIUM.

The "Bulletin Commercial" of 2nd May contains an announcement to the effect that tenders will be opened on the 27th May, by the "Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux," at No. 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels, for the construction of the section from Hamme to Tamise, on the local line from Hamme to Zwijndrecht.

The upset price of the work is 155,510 francs (6,220*l.*), and a deposit of 16,000 francs (640*l.*) is required. Tenders by registered letter must be addressed to the Director-General of the Company at the address given above, where they will be received not later than 26th May. Plans, estimates, and conditions of contract may be seen at the Company's office and at the office of M. de Moor, Quai des Moines No. 27, Gand.

A statement of the conditions of contract may be obtained at the offices named on payment of 1 franc.

*Openings for British Trade.***PORTUGAL.**

With reference to the announcement which appeared on page 250 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 7th May, calling for tenders for the construction and working of certain railways, it is to be noted that the "Diario do Governo" of 7th idem contains a decree approving the plan of the competition and the respective tables of requirements which have now been drawn up and are given in the "Diario" named. The maximum duration of the concession is fixed at 99 years.

The "Diario" containing the above notice may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

SPAIN.

H.M. Consul at Bilbao, in his report for the year 1902, states that it is certain that when various plans are realised for supplying Bilbao with electrical power derived from waterfalls near Miranda and in Guipuzcoa, industries generally will declare in favour of electrical machinery. The Hidro-Elctrica Iberica Company made contracts in 1902 for the supply to various firms of electrical force amounting to 3,400 horse-power. It hopes to be in a position to furnish this in May (1903). Applications for the further supply of 7,810 horse-power were also received. The falls in the Ebro and Leizaran Rivers, over which the company has acquired rights, are estimated to supply force up to 16,000 horse-power, an amount which can be consumed in Bilbao. The installation for the transforming plant to that extent is being put in hand.

Contracts for the supply of power were made at the following rates:—

Horse-power.	Number of Hours per Day.	Price per Annum per Horse-power.		Conditions.
		Currency.	Sterling.	
		Peretas.	£ s. d.	
150	12	150	4 7 9	Hours at supplier's option.
500	12	£00	5 16 11	Hours at consumer's option.
200*	12	200	5 16 11	
150*	12	150	4 7 9	Hours at "supplier's" option.
400	24	250	7 6 2	

* Contracted with the same firm.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—*continued.*

Further on in his report the Consul states that an importation, small in its beginnings, but well worthy the attention of British manufacturers, has begun in agricultural machines, such as sowers, reapers, threshing machines and binders. The Diputación Provincial (which may perhaps be translated County Council) has placed itself at the head of a movement for enabling farmers in the Basque provinces to acquire modern implements at cost price. (See "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th March last, pp. 575-6.) A dépôt will in all probability be established in Bilbao in connection with a number of model farms. Amongst other articles that will be required are harrows, ploughs of the Bravant double type, root cutters, hand winnowers, &c. According to one Bilbao agent 50 machines of various kinds were sent from the United States in 1901. Of these two-thirds were sold and distributed throughout different parts of Spain. The number in 1902 was still larger, and an increased importation is expected during 1903. Profiting by previous experience, large supplies of additional parts are furnished with these machines. British agricultural machinery has been tried and condemned as being too heavy for practical utility. The draught animals of the country are small, which makes lightness an essential consideration with Spanish purchasers of farming machinery. American binders are less durable than many of British make, but are cheaper and admirably adapted in weight to Spanish requirements.

Further, in the opinion of the Consul the future should bring a demand for pumping machinery for irrigation purposes in the interior provinces of Spain. Just as a direct leap was taken from primitive oil lamps or total darkness to electric lighting in even the humblest dwellings of the working class, so there is a desire, born of opportunity, to pass from the archaic waterwheel (Noria), with its esparto rope and earthenware bucket, to the most modern and economical water-lifting appliances. Progress is slow and considerably retarded by the fact that the new machinery does not always get fair play at the hands of the inexperienced users, but there is a movement forwards of which British manufacturers should be ready to avail themselves.

The Consul also reports that American files are making their way into the Bilbao trade, owing principally to the fact that 70 per cent. discount is allowed, and prices are quoted franco Bilbao. Their lightness also offers an advantage, owing to the high Customs duty levied by weight. As a set off, British files, whilst heavier, have more metal and better temper, and will bear re-cutting, which the American

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—continued.

will not. Files of native manufacture do not offer any obstacle to importation, as they are inferior in quality and have failed to secure popular favour.

As regards wood-pulp, H.M. Consul remarks that 10,239 tons of wood-pulp, imported into Bilbao in 1902, point to an article which may become worth the attention of Canadian producers. At present Norway supplies nearly the whole of this, which is said, in Bilbao, to be superior to the Canadian, but price is probably the decisive factor. Norwegian pulp costs 11 fr. per 100 kilogs. (say 4s. 5d. per cwt.) franco Bilbao against Canadian, 5s.

With regard to railway enterprise during 1902 the Consul reports that a beginning has been made with the building of the Vasco-Castellana Company's double line railway from Bilbao to Burgos, a distance of about 125 miles. The work is being carried out by British contractors. This company has obtained concessions for the continuance of the line from Burgos to Madrid, which will bring Bilbao within seven hours of the capital, a reduction of about 90 miles, and a saving of eight hours as compared with the present time. The Madrid portion of the route is now being surveyed.

Amongst lines projected are:—A metre gauge railway from Estella-Vitoria-Durango (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 30th April, p. 197), of which a part is already working between Vitoria and Salinas de Leniz. It is expected that the Anglo Vasco Navarra Company will contract for the completion of the remainder during the present year (1903).

The British Vice-Consul at Santander reports that codfish is imported into that port to some extent. Norway rules the market. Only 201 tons were imported from the United Kingdom, and the Vice-Consul is of opinion that much more could be done with Scotch fish, which is much appreciated by the Spaniards.

The Vice-Consul adds:—"A few years ago sample cargoes of Newfoundland fish were discharged here, and the quality appeared to give satisfaction. I fancy there is an opening for trade in this line. It is consumed in the south of Spain, and I see no reason why it should not be consumed in the north and interior as well."

The British Vice-Consul at San Sebastian in his report writes:—

**Ironmongery and
Locksmith's
Work.**

"I think that there might be an opening for good ironmongery and locksmith's work, if catalogues, written in Spanish, were sent to me for distribution, or, better still, if commercial

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—continued.

travellers in that particular line, speaking Spanish, were sent out with samples. I have had several visits from German travellers, but only one from a British traveller." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,964.*)

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 10th May contains a decree authorising a concession to the Vasco Asturiana Railway Company to construct and work for 99 years without State subvention a narrow-gauge line from La Peñona, on the line from Ujo to Trubia to the Pepita and Dolores mines, subject to certain maximum tariffs for freight and passengers, and other conditions stated in the "Gaceta," which may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

**Railway Plant
and Rolling
Stock.**

TURKEY—PALESTINE.

In his recent report on the trade of Palestine for the year 1902, H.M. Consul at Jerusalem writes as follows

Oil Engines. with regard to the importation of oil engines:—

"The number of such engines imported into Palestine during the past year was 64, of a total value of 8,050*l.*, compared with 47, of the value of 4,700*l.*, during 1901. These engines vary from 2 to 15 horse-power, and are used for irrigating purposes and in mills. They are imported from Germany and the United Kingdom, and since their introduction for irrigating the orange gardens, some five or six years ago, about 90 altogether have been brought from the United Kingdom; 75 of such engines, of from 2 to 6½ horse-power, are now in use for irrigating the orange gardens, the majority of the engines required for such purposes being of from 3 to 4 horse-power. The remainder are used in flour mills. Oil engines were at first imported from Germany (Cologne), and the success which attended their introduction into Palestine was pointed out in the annual reports from this office, which drew the attention of British manufacturers to the subject. The result was the receipt by this Consulate of numerous circulars and letters of enquiry, and as every effort was made to bring to the notice of garden proprietors at Jaffa and others the advantages of British oil engines, the latter, which on trial have been found to give every satisfaction, both as regards cost and facility for working, are gradually finding a market in Palestine, and the demand will probably continue to increase. I have made it a point to visit as often as my duties will permit the different gardens at Jaffa and other places where English oil engines are now at work, so as to be able, as the result of personal inspection, to answer any enquiries which may be addressed to me on the subject." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,962.*)

Openings for British Trade.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Copy of an application made to H.M. Consul at Chicago by a firm of importers in that city to be put in communication with British manufacturers in the goods they deal in, has been received at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade through the Foreign Office. The firm in question import novelties, general merchandise, high class advertising matter, attar of roses, cutlery, carved wooden ware, synthetic dyes, &c. Enquiries for further information should be made through H.M. Consul at Chicago.

**Enquiries for
Manufacturers
of "Novelties,"
General
Merchandise,
&c., &c.**

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copies of despatches from H.M. Consuls at Boston and Chicago in reply to enquiries relative to the trade in salted fish in their respective districts.

H.M. Consul at Boston reports that only a small trade exists in salted herrings of European origin, those imported from Canada and Newfoundland being consumed, owing to their price being 50 per cent. cheaper, namely 4½ dols. (18s. 8d.) per barrel as against 9 dols. (37s. 4d.).

The fish are imported from Newfoundland, &c., in barrels, weighing some 200 lbs. each, and they are afterwards re-packed in half and quarter barrels, of 100 and 50 lbs. each, to suit the Boston trade. "Fulls" are the class of fish which are imported.

The British Vice-Consul at Portland, Maine, reports that the class of herrings marketed at that port are purchased at Boston, and are known as "splits."

H.M. Consul at Chicago states that the Irish herring is unknown to many dealers there. The Consul adds that the matter now is simply one of price, English and Scotch herrings generally costing more than other fish.

NICARAGUA.

H.M. Consul at Granada, in his report for the year 1902, states that such articles as beer, candles, wire fencing, drugs, chinaware, paper, cement, leather, kid gloves, &c., are invariably imported from the United States, Germany, and France, and an effort might be made by British manufacturers to secure part of this trade. Trade can be increased considerably by the continued distribution of illustrated pamphlets, circulars, and catalogues, printed in the Spanish language, to the different import houses and consumers, a list of whom can always be obtained from the

**Articles in which
Trade might be
Secured.**

Openings for British Trade.

various Consulates, with any further information required. A traveller, of course, is preferable, but where the expense has to be considered, or the amount of business likely to be done would not warrant sending out a man, the price lists (with small samples if possible) will very often lead to business, and it is advisable to send these direct to the buyers themselves, instead of to H.M. Consular officers, who often may not have time to distribute them, nor occasion to see people who do not happen to have business at the Consulates. Further on in his report the Consul again calls the attention of shippers to the importance of correct Consular invoices, as a mistake in the declaration of any article may lead to serious trouble and expense to the importer. Consular invoices and bills of lading should be sent in duplicate. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,963.*)

URUGUAY.

With reference to the notice published on p. 392 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 28th August, 1902, respecting a call for tenders for the construction of sanitary works in the port of Monte Video, H.M. Minister-Resident and Consul-General at that place reports that the Government of Uruguay have accepted the tender of Senor V. Scala, the representative of a Buenos Ayres firm. By the terms of the contract, Senor Scala is bound to execute works to the value of 150,000 dols.* within one year from the 1st of May.

* Uruguayan dollar = 4s. $3\frac{1}{8}$ d. (about).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

A meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Imperial Institute was held on the 5th May at the Offices of the Board of Trade, at 7, Whitehall Gardens, S.W., under the presidency of the Right Hon. G. W. Balfour, M.P. The Right Hon. Lord James of Hereford, G.C.V.O., was elected chairman of the Committee, and it was also decided to ask Mr. H. Llewellyn-Smith, of the Board of Trade, to act as hon. secretary to the Committee. There were also present the Right Hon. the Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G., the Right Hon. Lord Allerton, Sir William Houldsworth, Bart., M.P., Sir Francis Hopwood, K.C.B., C.M.G., Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G., the Hon. Henry Copeland, Sir Walter Peace, K.C.M.G., Sir Stuart Bayley, K.C.S.I., the Hon. Sir Robert Herbert, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., and T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Palestine.—H.M. Consul at Jerusalem in his recent report writes :—

“It may further be remarked in reference to the extension and encouragement of British trade that every facility is given by this office for bringing buyers into communication with home manufacturers, and that, by adopting the method of at once answering enquiries and furnishing lists of local traders and merchants to the producers, a means for importing certain British goods has been afforded. Such articles as drugs, provisions, perfumery, haberdashery and stationery, which formerly were imported from the Continent of Europe have, by this means, been introduced into the country from the United Kingdom.”

The British Consular Agent at Jaffa reports that it is worth noticing that the British lines of steamers are charging unusually high freights on British goods imported to that place, whilst it must not be overlooked that the freights of foreign as well as British lines on goods from the Continent, which are about half the amount per ton charged by the British steamship companies. The cause of the high rate is attributed to a combination made by some British steamship companies having connection with Jaffa. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,962.*)

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN
APRIL, 1903.*

I.—GENERAL

The trade returns for April, 1903, show a decrease in the value as compared with the corresponding month of 1902 of the **Imports** into the United Kingdom, and also of the **Exports** of British produce, but an increase in the **Exports** of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the **Imports** in April, 1903, was 48,802,327*l.*, a decrease of 2,397,601*l.*, or 5·2 per cent., as compared with those in April, 1902, whilst the total **Exports** amounted to 29,725,437*l.*, showing a net decrease of 261,041*l.* The **Exports** of British produce alone show a decrease of 356,156*l.*, or 1·5 per cent., as compared with April, 1902, whilst there is an increase of 95,115*l.*, or 1·4 per cent., in the **Exports** of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

II.—IMPORTS.†

The following table shows the value of the **Imports** for April, 1903, as compared with the corresponding months of 1902 and 1901, according to the different categories of merchandise :—

* Reference should be made to the article on “The Changes in the Monthly Trade Accounts,” published at pp. 296-300 of the “Board of Trade Journal” of 12th February, for information as to the changes which have been made in these Accounts.

† The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in April, 1903.***Imports from Foreign Countries and British Possessions.**

	Month of April.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour ...	5,591,819	5,310,037	4,658,141	— 556,896	— 938,671
B. Meat, including animals for food.	4,388,896	4,030,854	4,441,806	+ 410,752	+ 52,710
C. Other food and drink—					
1. Non-dutiable ...	4,945,579	5,310,144	4,469,680	— 740,464	— 475,899
2. Dutiable ...	5,149,761	3,079,102	3,112,395	+ 33,293	+ 2,037,266
D. Tobacco ...	326,655	344,863	287,404	— 57,459	— 39,251
Total, Class I. ...	£ 30,402,703	£ 17,875,000	£ 16,964,226	— 910,774	— 3,438,477
II.—Raw Materials and Articles					
Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke, and patent fuel ...	429	72	339	+ 267	— 90
B. Iron ore, scrap iron, and steel ...	310,813	511,309	391,799	+ 119,510	+ 80,986
C. Other metallic ores ...	482,698	430,484	476,527	+ 46,043	+ 6,099
D. Wood and timber ...	1,344,679	1,327,155	1,598,254	+ 266,099	+ 248,575
E. Cotton ...	3,850,592	2,939,864	4,142,444	+ 1,202,580	+ 282,852
F. Wool ...	3,064,635	3,622,879	2,802,377	— 820,502	— 262,458
G. Other textile materials ...	1,237,649	1,236,519	985,739	— 309,780	— 302,110
H. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums ...	1,826,492	2,582,048	2,099,368	— 482,680	+ 273,876
I. Hides and undressed skins ...	581,544	599,629	561,169	— 38,459	— 20,375
J. Materials for paper making ...	307,633	242,894	270,707	+ 27,813	+ 37,126
K. Miscellaneous ...	1,679,221	2,052,092	1,777,309	— 274,783	+ 98,088
Total, Class II. ...	£ 14,695,913	£ 15,544,944	£ 15,051,032	— 493,912	+ 355,119
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof ...	553,623	715,738	611,835	— 103,903	+ 58,212
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof ...	1,678,950	1,806,949	1,762,357	— 46,592	+ 83,407
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments ...	369,812	415,845	404,415	— 11,430	+ 34,603
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus ...	—	—	2,643	+ 2,643	+ 2,643
E. Machinery ...	382,563	563,958	403,942	— 160,016	+ 21,379
F. Ships (new) ...	—	—	1,511	+ 1,511	+ 1,511
G. Manufactures of wood and timber (including furniture) ...	219,561	249,985	226,565	— 23,420	+ 7,004
H. Yarns and textile fabrics—					
1. Cotton ...	398,147	522,678	657,057	+ 134,379	+ 258,910
2. Wool ...	933,393	1,114,929	981,759	— 133,170	+ 48,366
3. Other materials ...	1,779,180	2,180,799	1,792,875	— 388,424	+ 13,215
I. Apparel ...	26,816	50,520	191,340	+ 140,820	+ 164,524
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours ...	861,973	1,013,219	751,221	— 261,998	— 110,752
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes and gloves) ...	1,129,896	1,044,529	978,029	— 66,500	— 151,867
L. Earthenware and glass ...	390,606	430,958	406,953	— 24,005	+ 16,347
M. Paper ...	358,515	393,076	378,526	— 14,550	+ 20,011
N. Miscellaneous ...	1,866,810	2,090,713	2,049,099	— 41,614	+ 182,289
Total, Class III. ...	£ 10,949,825	£ 12,595,896	£ 11,599,627	— 996,269	+ 649,802
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post) ...	£ 217,176	£ 184,088	£ 187,442	+ 3,354	— 29,734
Total value of Imports ...	£ 46,365,617	£ 46,199,928	£ 43,802,327	— 2,297,601	— 2,463,290

† Not included under following heads.

Comparing the imports of the principal articles last month with those of April, 1902, the chief increases and decreases are as shown in the following statement:—

Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in April, 1903.

Increases.			
		£	£
I.	A.	Wheat meal and flour	106,225
		Maize or Indian corn	143,836
		Cattle	278,376
	B.	Mutton, fresh ...	315,259
		Cs. Coffee	86,910
II.	C.	Copper ore ...	61,275
		D. Wood and timber, sawn or split ...	320,162
		E. Raw cotton ...	1,208,312
	G.	Flax, dressed and undressed ...	103,083
		H1. Cotton yarns and fabrics of all kinds ...	134,379
III.	H2. Woollen yarn for weaving ...	53,942	

Decreases.			
		£	£
I.	A.	Wheat	356,838
		Barley	68,494
		Oats	210,349
		Bacon	60,706
		Hams	58,818
	B.	Meat preserved otherwise than by salting ...	119,100
		Butter	146,341
	C1.	Fish, cured or salted	330,563
		Pepper	65,586
	B.	Iron ore	109,876
II.	F.	Sheep or lambs' wool	779,710
	G.	Hemp, dressed and undressed ...	220,664
		Jute	208,408
II.- ctd.	H.	Cotton seed ...	73,251
		Petroleum ...	186,690
		K. Feathers, ornamental ...	54,676
	B.	Gutta-percha ...	53,323
		Copper, unwrought, and part wrought ...	86,960
	E.	Machinery ...	160,016
	Hs.	Woollen manufactures unenumerated ...	150,719
		Ss. Silk manufactures of all kinds ...	249,174
	J.	Indigo	120,695

The following instances of increase in value combined with decrease in quantity, or *vice versa*, may be noted, viz. :—

		Increase.	Decrease.
I.	A.	Corn and grain not specially enumerated ...	1,694 cwts. £1,141
	B.	Beef, salted ...	£1,176 ... 589 cwts.
	C1.	Bananas ...	677 bunches £8,362
		Hops ...	£2,898 ... 390 cwts.
		Spices unenumerated ...	53,906 lbs. £3,705
II.	D.	Tobacco unmanufactured ...	793,494 " £7,905
	D.	Mahogany ...	£3,010 ... 35 tons.
	H.	Flax or linseed ...	25,630 qrs. £45,258
	J.	Wood pulp, mechanical, wet ...	1,895 tons £1,577
	K.	Guano ...	175 " £1,462
III.	A.	Tyres and axles ...	58 " £1,572
	B.	Tin ...	£34,585 ... 89 tons.
		Zinc, crude ...	£4,830 ... 1,706 "
	J.	Dyes—indigotin ...	389 cwts. £6,075
	M.	Paper, unprinted ...	27,413 " £9,172

III.—EXPORTS.*

The following table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of April, 1903, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901, and the increase or decrease in each principal category :—

* The value of the Exports represents the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in April, 1903.***Exports of British Produce.**

	Month of April.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour	91,178	93,391	141,180	+	50,002
B. Meat, including animals for food ...	48,348	53,552	35,574	—	12,774
C. Other food and drink	838,837	925,170	840,078	—	1,341
D. Tobacco	47,942	51,718	47,301	—	641
Total, Class I.	£ 1,026,305	1,123,826	1,064,133	— 59,693	+ 37,628
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke and patent fuel	2,452,748	2,300,133	2,059,807	— 140,326	— 372,941
B. Iron ore, scrap iron and steel ...	22,842	30,640	41,563	+	18,721
C. Other metallic ores	4,482	4,629	9,768	+	5,286
D. Wood and timber	436	2,743	7,250	+	6,814
E. Cotton	—	—	—	—	—
F. Wool	32,828	53,467	57,035	+	24,207
G. Other textile materials	13,784	20,236	15,458	—	1,674
H. Oil-seeds, nuts, oils, fats and gums	228,896	310,292	283,641	— 26,651	+ 54,745
I. Hides and undressed skins	30,313	23,009	110,786	+	90,473
J. Materials for paper making	29,842	35,473	34,080	— 1,392	+ 4,238
K. Miscellaneous	113,876	126,051	131,099	+	17,333
Total, Class II.	£ 2,900,047	2,807,672	2,750,487	— 57,185	— 149,560
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof †	2,079,992	2,419,918	2,561,283	+	481,291
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof †	526,093	556,470	566,105	+	40,012
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments	336,774	379,930	369,264	— 10,666	+ 32,490
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus ...	548,709	54,541	920,708	+	371,999
E. Machinery	1,544,614	1,655,067	1,623,042	— 32,025	+ 78,428
F. Ships (new)	500,472	430,364	355,145	— 75,419	— 145,327
G. Manufactures of wood and tim- ber (including furniture)	72,715	107,498	107,911	+	35,196
H. Yarns and textile fabrics— 1. Cotton	5,826,867	6,420,896	5,808,467	— 612,429	— 18,400
2. Wool	1,468,003	1,614,038	1,525,334	— 88,704	+ 57,331
3. Other materials	861,830	974,615	867,712	— 106,903	+ 5,882
I. Apparel	462,684	505,799	502,493	— 3,306	+ 39,809
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	967,360	1,215,675	1,073,073	— 142,602	+ 105,704
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes, and gloves)	305,498	329,328	372,548	+	67,050
L. Earthenware and glass	247,914	267,801	252,663	— 14,938	+ 4,949
M. Paper	137,686	149,964	143,198	— 6,766	+ 5,512
N. Miscellaneous	1,857,013	2,105,383	1,966,424	— 138,959	+ 109,411
Total, Class III.	£ 17,744,235	19,187,987	19,015,570	— 172,417	+ 1,271,337
IV.—Miscellaneous and Un classi- fied (including Parcel Post) £	316,448	373,044	306,183	— 66,861	— 10,265
Total value of Exports of British produce	£ 21,987,083	23,493,529	23,126,373	— 356,156	+ 1,149,240

Exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce.

Total value	£ 6,286,077	£ 6,413,919	£ 6,589,054	+	£ 95,115	+	£ 303,067
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† † et included under following heads.

Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in April, 1903.

Comparing the exports of the principal articles of British produce and manufactures in April, 1903, with those of April, 1902, the chief increases and decreases are as follows:—

Increases.

			£
III.	{	A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof ...	141,365
		D. Telegraph cables and apparatus* ...	866,167
		N. Arms, ammunition, &c. ...	62,888

* Prior to 1903, the value of telegraphic wires was also included, making the increase still more noticeable.

Decreases.

				£
II.	A.	Coal, coke and patent fuel ...		140,326
	F.	Ships, new... ...		75,419
III.	{	H ¹ . Cotton yarn ...		67,989
		„ piece-goods ...		546,189
	{	H ² . Jute piece-goods ...		50,378
		J. Manure (chemical) ...		58,996

The following instances of increase in value combined with decrease in quantity, or *vice versa*, may be noted, viz.:—

			Increase.		Decrease.
II.	{	C. Metallic ores, other than iron ore...	£5,139	...	434 tons.
		F. Wool, sheep and lambs' ...	£3,563	...	175,600 lbs.
		H. Seed oil ...	262 tons	...	£6,602
		B. Copper, unwrought and part ...	£20,223	...	44 tons.
III.	{	F. Ships, new ...	{ 32 number 4,202 grs. tonnage }	...	£75,419
		Wool noils ...	£3557	...	50,800 lbs.
	{	H ² . Yarn, alpaca and mohair ...	600 lbs.	...	£6,390
		Wool blankets ...	£1,635	...	385 pairs.
	J.	Bleaching materials ...	14,114 cwts.	...	£5,978
	N.	Brooms and brushes ...	859 dozens	...	£2,317

IV.—TRADE FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1903.

The following table shows the value of the Imports from foreign countries and British possessions for the four months ended the 30th April last, as compared with the corresponding periods of the two previous years:—

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in April, 1903.***Imports from Foreign Countries and British Possessions.**

	Four Months ended 30th April.			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour	20,940,159	19,905,396	19,367,451	— 537,945	— 1,572,708
B. Meat, including animals for food	16,489,541	15,242,280	16,090,356	+ 848,076	— 399,185
C. Other food and drink—					
1. Non-dutiable... ..	18,250,616	18,466,747	18,735,295	+ 268,548	+ 484,679
2. Dutiable	18,703,780	16,610,980	13,427,960	— 3,183,020	— 5,275,820
D. Tobacco	1,372,935	1,444,720	1,363,384	— 81,336	— 9,551
Total, Class I.	£ 75,757,031	71,670,123	68,984,446	— 2,685,677	— 6,772,585
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke and patent fuel ...	6,280	342	1,977	+ 1,635	— 4,303
B. Iron ore, scrap iron and steel ...	1,478,963	1,639,861	1,690,320	+ 50,459	+ 211,357
C. Other metallic ores... ..	1,898,326	2,017,962	1,945,333	— 72,629	+ 47,007
D. Wood and timber	4,181,528	3,835,240	4,214,035	+ 378,795	+ 32,507
E. Cotton	17,217,134	18,332,626	19,620,278	+ 1,287,652	+ 2,403,144
F. Wool	10,300,721	10,114,822	11,198,341	+ 1,083,519	+ 897,620
G. Other textile materials	5,190,029	5,490,387	4,524,211	— 966,176	— 665,818
H. Oil-seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums	7,697,986	9,246,175	8,018,645	— 1,227,530	+ 320,659
I. Hides and undressed skins ...	2,517,488	2,432,956	2,537,024	+ 104,068	+ 19,536
J. Materials for paper making ...	1,180,928	1,004,968	965,715	— 39,253	— 215,213
K. Miscellaneous	6,403,081	7,268,147	7,172,029	— 96,118	+ 768,948
Total Class II.	£ 58,072,464	61,383,486	61,887,908	+ 504,422	+ 3,815,444
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof†	2,320,989	2,619,491	2,676,473	+ 56,982	+ 355,484
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof†	6,338,814	6,829,531	5,973,193	— 856,338	— 565,621
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments	1,340,563	1,394,259	1,477,534	+ 83,275	+ 136,971
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus... ..	—	—	25,639	+ 25,639	+ 25,639
E. Machinery	1,256,904	1,645,602	1,535,841	— 109,761	+ 278,937
F. Ships (new)	—	—	14,810	+ 14,810	+ 14,810
G. Manufactures of wood and tim- ber (including furniture)	733,746	764,560	758,102	— 6,458	+ 24,356
H. Yarns and textile fabrics—					
1. Cotton	1,683,134	2,035,051	2,811,711	+ 776,660	+ 1,128,577
2. Wool	4,151,462	4,402,884	4,134,701	— 268,183	— 16,761
3. Other materials	7,939,644	7,444,124	7,222,707	— 221,417	+ 716,937
I. Apparel	88,186	164,293	865,772	+ 701,479	+ 777,586
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	3,360,361	3,385,509	3,052,846	— 332,663	— 307,515
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes, and gloves)	4,101,799	3,636,538	3,979,646	+ 343,108	— 122,153
L. Earthenware and glass	1,342,694	1,521,727	1,513,832	— 7,895	+ 171,138
M. Paper	1,441,918	1,480,001	1,600,041	+ 120,040	+ 158,123
N. Miscellaneous	7,290,922	7,623,849	8,103,735	+ 479,886	+ 812,813
Total, Class III.	£ 43,591,136	44,947,419	45,746,583	+ 799,164	+ 2,155,447
IV.—Miscellaneous and Un classi- fied (including Parcel Post) ...	952,422	840,708	766,230	— 74,478	— 186,192
Total	£ 178,373,053	178,841,736	177,385,167	— 1,456,569	— 987,886

† Not included under following heads.

The value of the Exports of home produce and of foreign and colonial produce during the first four months of 1903, as compared with like periods of 1902 and 1901, is as shown in the subjoined table:—

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in April, 1903.***Exports of British Produce.***

	Four Months ended 30th April.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour	316,190	295,417	515,091	+	219,674
B. Meat, including animals for food	150,906	229,156	180,512	—	48,644
C. Other food and drink	3,546,446	3,932,871	3,539,447	—	393,424
D. Tobacco	198,312	265,615	210,210	—	55,405
Total, Class I.	4,209,854	4,723,059	4,445,260	—	277,799
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke, and patent fuel ...	9,582,474	8,301,701	8,427,686	+	125,965
B. Iron ore, scrap iron, and steel ...	71,878	93,857	130,943	+	37,586
C. Other metallic ores	18,257	24,018	35,455	+	11,437
D. Wood and timber	4,416	7,400	15,278	+	7,873
E. Cotton	156,964	227,056	347,445	+	119,489
F. Wool	46,981	77,565	58,586	—	18,979
G. Other textile materials	850,979	1,064,392	1,077,559	+	13,167
H. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums	95,311	111,417	526,570	+	415,153
I. Hides and undressed skins	120,858	122,649	136,023	+	15,374
J. Materials for paper making	465,323	549,961	552,677	+	2,916
K. Miscellaneous	11,411,641	10,580,416	11,308,397	+	727,981
Total, Class II.	11,411,641	10,580,416	11,308,397	+	727,981
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	8,063,424	8,504,667	10,094,918	+	1,590,251
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof	2,053,038	2,087,735	2,205,244	+	117,509
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments	1,370,902	1,386,847	1,453,267	+	66,420
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus ...	1,877,979	803,896	1,361,741	—	457,845
E. Machinery	5,803,823	5,626,486	6,009,556	+	383,070
F. Ships (new)	4,072,928	2,164,168	1,280,896	—	883,272
G. Manufactures of wood and timber (including furniture)	331,646	381,172	510,170	+	128,998
H. Yarns and textile fabrics— 1. Cotton	24,798,177	25,134,183	25,405,706	+	271,523
2. Wool	7,515,384	7,895,333	8,328,641	+	438,808
3. Other materials	3,958,968	3,966,398	4,083,683	+	117,285
I. Apparel	2,376,714	2,355,257	2,776,842	+	421,585
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	3,806,348	4,056,123	4,301,799	+	245,676
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes and gloves)	1,331,436	1,340,138	1,709,512	+	369,374
L. Earthenware and glass	1,003,174	944,391	1,056,623	+	112,332
M. Paper	607,361	523,399	579,869	+	56,470
N. Miscellaneous	7,536,179	7,409,367	7,855,966	+	446,619
Total, Class III.	75,907,481	74,579,560	78,914,453	+	4,334,893
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassi- fied (including Parcel Post)	1,270,336	1,408,182	1,255,529	—	152,653
Total value	92,799,313	91,391,317	95,923,639	+	4,632,423

Exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce.

Total value	£ 22,504,127	£ 21,952,967	£ 24,253,463	£ + 2,300,496	£ + 1,749,336
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* The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship and are known as the "free on board" values.
† Not included under following heads.

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in April, 1903.***V.—SHIPPING IN APRIL, 1903.**

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended April, 1903, amounted to 3,135,051 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,871,662 tons, as against 3,062,159 tons entered and 3,681,001 tons cleared in the month of April, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during April, 1903, amounted to 2,528,245 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,475,685 tons, as against 2,584,060 tons entered, and 2,543,295 tons cleared in April, 1902.

VI.—FOUR MONTHS' SHIPPING (JANUARY-APRIL).

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the four months ended 30th April, 1903, amounted to 11,605,286 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 14,569,491 tons, as against 11,306,022 tons entered and 13,614,288 tons cleared in the similar period of the year 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during the first four months of 1903 amounted to 9,931,865 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 9,830,330 tons, as against 10,108,707 tons entered and 9,960,284 tons cleared in the first four months of the year 1902.

TRADE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

The following summary table has been prepared, showing the total imports and exports of the principal countries for which the particulars can be given up to February, 1903, inclusive, and referring in all cases to the same period, viz., the two months January and February. The corresponding figures for 1902 and 1901 are added for comparison:—

	Imports. Two Months ended February.			Exports (Domestic). Two Months ended February.		
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium* ...	11,648,000	12,776,000	14,847,000	9,706,000	10,691,000	11,242,000
France ...	29,448,000	28,235,000	30,882,000	22,428,000	26,096,000	27,807,000
Spain* ...	5,845,000	5,257,000	4,975,000	4,344,000	4,346,000	4,848,000
Austria-Hungary	10,936,000	11,560,000	12,640,000	10,482,000	11,709,000	12,235,000
Egypt ...	2,451,000	2,358,000	2,661,000	3,272,000	3,682,000	3,968,000
United States ...	27,877,000	30,727,000	34,935,000	50,912,000	47,103,000	52,943,000
Japan ...	4,004,000	4,416,000	4,930,000	3,431,000	3,995,000	3,982,000
British India ...	9,483,000	9,747,000	8,427,000	13,485,000	15,657,000	15,939,000
Canada ...	5,358,000	5,864,000	6,748,000	3,851,000	4,507,000	5,580,000
United Kingdom	87,702,000	91,823,000	86,787,000	45,791,000	45,581,000	47,679,000

* Value of *principal* articles only.

Trade of Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

In the case of Belgium, France, Austria-Hungary, Japan, and Canada, the import figures given in the above summary represent imports for home consumption only. In all cases the export figures represent exports of domestic produce.

A comparison of the total figures for three months ended 31st March is possible for four countries, as follow, viz. :—

	Imports. Three Months ended March.			Exports (Domestic). Three Months ended March.		
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium* ...	19,173,000	21,381,000	23,262,000	16,347,000	17,342,000	18,539,000
France ...	44,822,000	46,655,000	48,366,000	35,942,000	39,763,000	41,988,000
United States ...	43,687,000	48,274,000	54,977,000	76,282,000	68,851,000	79,852,000
United Kingdom	133,619,000	132,694,000	132,121,000	72,787,000	67,799,000	70,812,000

* Value of *principal* articles only.

The latest figures available as regards other countries from which returns are received by the Board of Trade, are as follows :—

	Imports.			Exports (Domestic).		
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Russia (12 mths.)	60,384,000	56,254,000	55,637,000	72,668,000	77,034,000	87,113,000
Germany (12 ")	288,281,000	271,062,000	276,598,000	230,569,000	221,572,000	243,409,000
Italy (11 ")	61,664,000	62,986,000	66,697,000	48,318,000	50,020,000	52,073,000
Mexico (12 ")	13,094,000	12,502,000	14,272,000	15,487,300	14,398,000	17,657,800
	(1901.)	(1902.)	(1903.)	(1901.)	(1902.)	(1903.)
Portugal (1 mth.)	1,191,000	1,108,000	1,014,000	462,000	535,000	536,000

For detailed particulars regarding the trade of the several countries, reference should be made to the "Accounts relating to the Trade and Commerce of certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions" (54/1903), including figures received up to 30th April, published by Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode at 4d.

TRADE OF CAPE COLONY IN JANUARY, 1903.

With reference to the statement on pp. 160-1 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 23rd April last, the "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette," of 10th April, publishes statistics showing the value of the trade of Cape Colony for the month ended 31st January, 1903, as compared with the corresponding period of 1902. The following tables show the total value of the imports and exports, including transit trade in both cases, of the principal and other articles into and from the Colony during the periods above-mentioned:—

Imports into Cape Colony.

Principal and other Articles.	Month ended 31st January, 1902.	Month ended 31st January, 1903.
Provisions of all kinds (<i>includes butter, cheese, chicory, coffee, meats, rice, sugar, and tea</i>)...	£ 332,000	£ 510,000
Metals and metal manufactures (<i>includes iron, lead, machinery and hardware</i>) ...	289,000	400,000
Cotton manufactures	168,000	321,000
Haberdashery and millinery	168,000	201,000
Wood, and manufactures of (<i>includes furniture and cabinetware</i>)	117,000	196,000
Leather and leather manufactures (<i>includes boots and shoes, and saddlery and harness</i>)	148,000	194,000
Wearing apparel (<i>includes hats</i>)	115,000	177,000
Corn, &c. (<i>flour, maize, oats, wheat</i>)	74,000	173,000
Provisions, oilman stores, &c. (<i>n.o.d.</i>)	155,000	146,000
Stationery (<i>includes books</i>)	66,000	81,000
Woollen manufactures	49,000	76,000
Alcoholic beverages (<i>includes wine, beer, and spirits</i>)	87,000	74,000
Carriages and other wheeled vehicles	81,000	50,000
Tobacco of all sorts	66,000	37,000
Drugs and chemicals	81,000	37,000
Cocoa and chocolate and confectionery	24,000	37,000
Agricultural implements	11,000	35,000
Earthenware and crockery	11,000	26,000
Soap and candles... ..	24,000	23,000
Jewellery and plated ware	14,000	22,000
Oil, mineral	15,000	22,000
Coal, coke and patent fuel	52,000	20,000
Cement	9,000	13,000
Linen manufactures	9,000	12,000
Paints and colours	8,000	12,000
Bags, all sorts	7,000	11,000
Pipes, iron and earthen	13,000	9,000
Dynamite and blasting compounds	7,000	2,000
All other articles of merchandise	199,000	446,000
Total merchandise	£ 2,299,000	£ 3,363,000
Articles imported for the Colonial Government	245,000	185,000
Specie	1,000	2,000
Grand total, imports	£ 2,545,000	£ 3,550,000

NOTE.—The official figures of imports into Cape Colony are exclusive of imports by the Imperial Government, but it may be noted that military supplies were partly contracted for on the spot.

*Trade of Cape Colony in January, 1903.***Exports from Cape Colony.**

Principal and other Articles.	Month ended 31st January, 1902.	Month ended 31st January, 1903.
	£	£
Gold (raw)	69,000	814,000
Diamonds	325,000	394,000
Wool (washed, scoured, and in the grease) ...	183,000	158,000
Ostrich feathers	70,000	67,000
Hides and skins	40,000	30,000
Hair, Angora	77,000	26,000
Copper ore... ..	—	—
All other articles of merchandise	20,000	15,000
Total merchandise ... £	784,000	1,504,000
Imported goods, re-exported	30,000	38,000
Specie	—	590,000
Grand total, exports ... £	814,000	2,132,000

COTTON GOODS TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

With reference to the statement on pp. 68-9 of the Board of Trade Journal of the 9th April last, the following table, which shows the exports of cotton goods (domestic manufacture) from the United States of America to the undermentioned destinations during the three months ended March, 1902 and 1903, has been compiled from the official statistics issued by the United States Government:—

Cotton Goods Trade of the United States of America.

To	Three Months ended March.	
	1902.	1903.
Coloured and uncoloured cloths—	Yards.	Yards.
United Kingdom	1,600,042	1,343,818
France	1,000	6,000
Germany	37,610	82,186
Other Europe	1,120,665	420,414
British North America	2,839,270	4,076,638
Central America and British Honduras	4,583,039	3,788,555
Mexico	1,060,928	368,460
Cuba	842,950	591,383
Other West Indies and Bermuda	7,489,767	8,063,044
Argentina	336,203	360,728
Brazil	2,497,505	2,567,959
Chile	2,060,593	2,361,793
Colombia	4,526,087	6,467,434
Venezuela	2,856,923	2,554,736
Other South America	1,799,465	1,660,612
Chinese Empire	103,987,022	85,012,363
British East Indies	4,819,067	2,187,632
Hong-Kong	55,327	219,358
Japan	15,737	150,946
British Australasia	1,072,007	908,473
Philippine Islands	985,176	847,247
Other Asia and Oceania	3,024,152	12,435,460
British Africa	1,689,701	1,014,098
All other Africa	110,882	94,593
Other countries	16,000	—
Total quantity Yards	149,427,118	143,587,430
Total value Dols.	7,494,544	7,325,090
Other cotton goods—	Dollars.	Dollars.
United Kingdom	216,468	242,208
Belgium	17,902	16,246
France	7,795	6,221
Germany	176,602	380,861
Netherlands	4,903	11,550
Other Europe	13,071	23,256
British North America	565,202	566,813
Central America and British Honduras	87,292	68,158
Mexico	89,045	75,955
Cuba	32,373	46,465
Other West Indies and Bermuda	42,464	66,816
Argentina	60,307	39,360
Brazil	16,534	17,016
Chile	8,924	6,613
Colombia	20,176	28,931
Venezuela	5,029	5,006
Other South America	10,254	8,295
Chinese Empire	5,213	2,568
British East Indies	3,911	2,044
Hong-Kong	1,674	1,053
British Australasia	106,439	98,227
Philippine Islands	30,401	13,786
Other Asia and Oceania	14,695	13,011
British Africa	23,888	75,726
All other Africa	3,281	5,472
Other countries	3,219	3,359
Total value Dols.	1,568,062	1,826,516
Grand total value of all cotton goods exported...	9,062,606	9,151,606

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

RUSSIA.

The Board of Trade have just published, in the form of a Parliamentary paper, a translation of the new **New General Customs Tariff.** General Customs Tariff for the European Frontiers of Russia, with comparison, as far as possible, of the rates of Customs duty contained in the Tariff with the rates at present in force on imports into European Russia from the United Kingdom.

In publishing this translation the Board direct attention to the following points:—

1. The Tariff is not in operation at the date of publication of the translation, and no date has yet been fixed on which any portion of it is to come into force.

2. So far as regards goods on which the rates of Russian import duties are "Conventional," i.e., are fixed by existing commercial treaties between Russia and other Powers, no alteration of the present rates can be made until those treaties expire, unless special arrangements are made with the Powers concerned. As regards other goods, the Russian Government can put the new rates in operation at any time.

3. The Tariff has been prepared by the Russian Government in view of the approaching termination of commercial treaties at present existing between Russia and other Powers, and the duties contained therein are liable to modification, as the result of negotiations for fresh commercial treaties. Any reductions of rates of duty on different articles that may be arranged in the course of such negotiations will apply to similar British goods imported into Russia by virtue of the "most-favoured-nation" stipulation of the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1859.

The return in question (Reference Number, Cd. 1,525) may be procured through any bookseller, or direct from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode's Office for the sale of Parliamentary Papers in East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., at a price of 7½d. per copy.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 261 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th February, relative to the importation of animals from Argentina and Uruguay, the Board of Trade have received from the Board of Agriculture a notification to the effect that the prohibition of the importation of animals from those countries has been renewed. The following is a copy of this notification, which is dated 8th May:—

**Prohibition of
Importation of
Animals from
Argentina
and Uruguay
renewed.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

"The Board of Agriculture have been informed that the Argentine Government have prohibited the exportation of cattle, sheep and swine from Argentina in consequence of the discovery of foot-and-mouth disease in imported cattle now undergoing quarantine at Buenos Aires, and the Board have themselves made an Order prohibiting the importation into Great Britain of animals brought from Argentina or from Uruguay. The Order of the Board will come into operation on Tuesday next, the 12th inst."

BRITISH INDIA.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of a Notification (No. 1,542 S. R.) issued by the Finance and Commerce Department of the Government of India on the 18th March last directing that, on and after that date, the duty payable on salt manufactured in, or imported *by land* into, British India shall be revised as follows:—

	Old Rate of Duty.	New Rate of Duty.
(a) Salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, Burma (except the Shan States) <i>Per maund</i> (82½ lbs.)	R. a. 1 0	R. a. 1 0
(b) Salt manufactured in the mines in the Kohat District (viz., Jatta, Maigui, Narri, Kanach, Bahadur Khel) ... <i>Per maund</i> (82½ lbs.)	2 0	1 8
(c) Salt manufactured in Aden* ... <i>Per</i> 140 lbs.	1 0	1 0
(d) Salt manufactured in any part of British India other than Burma, the said mines, or Aden, or imported by land into any part of British India, other than Burma <i>Per maund</i> (82½ lbs.)	2 8	2 0

NOTE.—As regards imports *by sea*, the Indian Tariff No. 3 of 1896, provides that the rate of import duty shall be at "the rate at which excise duty is for the time being leviable on salt manufactured in the place where the import takes place."

* The importation of salt into Aden is prohibited.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

The Board of Trade have received from the High Commissioner for the Dominion of Canada a copy of a Memorandum (No. 1,227 B) issued by the Canadian Department of Customs on 17th April, 1903, stating that the following Resolutions for the amendment of the Customs Tariff, 1897, introduced by the Minister of Finance in Parliament on 16th April last "are to be observed as in force" until otherwise ordered, viz.:—

That it is expedient to further amend the Customs Tariff, 1897, to the following effect:

1. The Governor in Council may by Order in Council direct that

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***DOMINION OF CANADA—continued.**

a duty of 7 dols. per ton shall be imposed in Schedule A on all iron and steel railway bars, or rails, in any form for railways, imported in Canada—provided that “such Order shall not be passed until the Governor in Council is satisfied that steel rails of the best quality, suitable for the use of Canadian railways, are being manufactured in Canada, from steel made in Canada, in sufficient quantity to meet the ordinary requirements of the market.”

[It is stated in the Memorandum that notice will be given in the “Canada Gazette” when the above duty comes into force. At present, steel rails weighing not less than 45 lbs. per lineal yard, for use only on the tracks of a railway which is employed in the common carrying of goods and passengers, and is operated by steam motive power only, are free of duty. Other kinds of rails are, under the General Tariff, subject to a duty of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*].

2. Articles which are the growth, produce, or manufacture of any foreign country which treats imports from Canada less favourably than those from other countries may be subject to a surtax over and above the duties of Schedule A (General Rates), such surtax in every case to amount to *one-third* of the duty as fixed by such schedule.
- Surtax on Goods—** to be applicable in the case of Germany.

The surtax shall also apply to any articles the chief value of which was produced in such foreign country, although it may have been improved, or advanced in value, by the labour of another country—notwithstanding the provisions of the British Preferential Tariff and Regulations thereunder. Any question arising as to any foreign country or goods coming under the operation of this section shall be decided upon by the Minister of Customs, whose decision shall be final.

Such surtax shall not apply to any goods actually purchased on or before the 16th April, 1903, by any corporation, firm, or person in Canada for immediate transportation to Canada. [Goods claiming exemption from surtax under this proviso shall be imported or taken out of warehouse and *entered for duty* on or before 30th June, 1903.]

NOTE.—The memorandum further states that the Minister of Customs has decided that the goods of GERMANY are subject to such surtax in Canada, under the terms of the above Tariff Resolutions.

3. That the period of exemption from duty of machinery of every kind and structural iron and steel for use in the construction and equipment of factories for the manufacture of sugar from beet-root be extended to 30th June, 1904.

4. That machinery and appliances of a kind not made in Canada

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

DOMINION OF CANADA—*continued.*

for exclusive use in alluvial gold mining be added to the free list until 30th June, 1904.

5. That item 409, in Schedule A, relating to duty on ships and other vessels built in foreign countries, and applying for Canadian register, be repealed.

[It is to be observed that the duty on the hull, rigging, and appurtenances, except machinery was, under the General Tariff, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, and on the boilers, steam engines and other machinery, 25 per cent. *ad valorem*.]

The present Memorandum also draws attention to the fact that:—

(a) A duty of 25 per cent. *ad valorem* is to be collected on foreign built British ships applying for license to engage in the coasting trade as set forth in Memo. No. 1,203 B;

(b) Gasoline yachts, electric and steam yachts, and pleasure boats of all kinds unregistered, or foreign built, are to be rated for duty at 25 per cent. *ad valorem* on importation for use coastwise in Canada.

It is further stated in the Memorandum 1,227 B, that, in view of the provisions for surtax in Canada on articles, the produce or manufacture of Germany, and on articles the chief value of which was produced in Germany, although the articles be subsequently improved or advanced in value by the labour of another country, it is ordered that invoices of goods imported into Canada shall be further certified and signed by exporters, *in all countries* in one of the following forms, as hereinafter prescribed, viz.:—

A.—Further certificate from exporters, prescribed to be written, printed or stamped on all invoices of goods *for entry under the British Preferential Tariff* in Canada, and to be subscribed by persons heretofore authorised to make and sign “preferential” certificates.

Whereas German goods are subject to a surtax in Canada, I certify that the chief value of none of the articles included in this invoice was produced in Germany.

(Signature).....(Exporter).

Note.—The above certificate may be added as the last clause in the certificates heretofore authorised for the British Preferential Tariff in Canada, or may be certified to, *separately*, on the invoice.

B.—Further certificates from exporters (in all countries) prescribed to be written, printed or stamped, and subscribed on invoices of goods exported to Canada, *except such goods as are admitted under the British Preferential Tariff* in Canada.

Whereas German goods are subject to surtax in Canada, I

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

DOMINION OF CANADA—continued.

certify that none of the articles included in this invoice are the produce or manufacture of Germany, and that the chief value of none of the said articles was produced in Germany—save and except all articles opposite which the word "Germany" is written on the invoice.

(Signature).....(Exporter).

Note.—The above certificate may be added as the last clause in the certificate heretofore authorised, or may be certified to, *separately*, on this invoice.

As a temporary matter of arrangement, from 1st May to 30th June, 1903, *Declarations* made before the Collector of Customs by the importer or his agent, and subscribed to on the entry, will be accepted instead of the "further certificates" from the exporter—provided that the Collector may require such further proof regarding the origin of the goods as he deems necessary in any case.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "New Zealand Gazette" for 5th March, 1903, containing an Order (No. 709) of the Commissioner of Trade and Customs, dated 3rd March last, giving Customs Decisions in relation to the undermentioned articles imported into New Zealand.

Articles, and how classed.	Rate of Duty.
Ampère-meter (part of X-ray apparatus)—	
As surgical appliances	Free.
Bitumastic solution—	
As paints mixed ready for use	5s. per cwt.
Boiler for Lawrence-Kennedy milking machine, when imported with and forming part of apparatus—	
As dairying machinery	Free.
When imported separately—	
As boiler for dairying machinery	5 % <i>ad val.</i>
Core gum—	
As chemicals, n.o.e.	15 % <i>ad val.</i>
Lamps, microscope—	
As lamps	20 % "
Lighthouse apparatus—viz., lantern, patent burner, lenses, and revolving apparatus—	
As articles not otherwise enumerated... ..	Free.
Locomotive spring balances—	
As manufacturers, n.o.e., of metal	20 % <i>ad val.</i>
Moulder's chaplets and nails—	
As hardware	20 % "
Nucolard—	
As provisions, n.o.e.	20 % "
"Rough on Rats"—	
As insecticides	Free.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Articles, and how classed.	Rate of Duty.
Seat-slides, brass Champion— As finished parts of carriages	20 % <i>ad val.</i>
Ships' side-lights— As lamps	20 % "
Shredded wheat, prepared for use by cooking— As provisions, n.o.e.	20 % "
Tyre tape-clips— As parts of bicycle tyres	Free.
Volt accumulator (part of X-ray apparatus)— As surgical appliances	Free.

EGYPT.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 27th April contains a Valuation Tariff* in use by the Egyptian Customs Authorities for the purpose of assessing duty on cement and hydraulic lime. This Tariff, which was to come into operation on the 23rd ult. and to remain in force until 22nd November next, is as follows :—

Description.	Valuation per 1,000 kilogs.†
Artificial Portland cement, English <i>in barrels</i>	£E.† 2-250
" " " " " " " " <i>in bags</i>	1-950
" " " " all other kinds <i>in barrels</i>	1-950
" " " " " " " " <i>in bags</i>	1-650
Natural cement, Belgian... .. <i>in barrels</i>	1-550
" " " " " " " " <i>in bags</i>	1-250
" " " " all other kinds... .. <i>in barrels</i>	1-650
" " " " " " " " <i>in bags</i>	1-350
" Valentine," "high Valentine," "Roquefort," "Bedoule," and other similar quick-drying cements, of all kinds <i>in barrels</i>	1-270
Ditto ditto <i>in bags</i>	0-970
Hydraulic lime, from France and Belgium	1-050

* For particulars as to the nature of these Egyptian Valuation Tariffs, see "Board of Trade Journal" for the 19th March, pp. 589-90.

† Duty is levied on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent.

‡ £E 1 = 1*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.*

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the Egyptian Customs Authorities, before sanctioning the introduction of safety fuses, require the production of a permit from the Ministry of the Interior. This permit can only be obtained on written application to the Minister of the Interior at Cairo.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

The following are the only differences observable on a comparison of this Beira Tariff with that already published.

Cotton thread, twisted, other than Portuguese, is dutiable at Beira, at the rate of 100 reis per kilog.

Parasols, umbrellas, and sunshades, other than of Portuguese origin, are separately tarified at Beira as dutiable at the rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem*

Casks, barrels, &c., imported into Beira from Portuguese possessions are exempted from import duty.

NOTE.—4,500 reis=£1 sterling.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres quoting from an announcement in the local newspapers to the effect that the Hamburg South American Company has now under consideration a scheme for reducing the voyage between Europe (Boulogne) and the Plate to 16 days.

The service is to be carried out by 10,000 ton steamers, now under construction. These vessels are to be fitted up to carry 160 first-class passengers, and will be fitted up with the most modern appliances and conveniences.

SANTO DOMINGO.

With reference to the notice on pp. 602-3 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 24th December, 1902, relative to a modification of the regulations for payment of port dues in Santo Domingo, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, copy and translation of a further Decree, transmitted by the Acting British Consul-General at Port-au-Prince, relative to the payment of these dues.

By the Decree of 3rd October, 1902, the said dues were made payable 20 per cent. in gold and 80 per cent. in bonds of the "Deuda Diferida," or Interior debt, at their face value; and as these bonds have a market value of only 5 per cent. of their face value that Decree materially reduced the port dues, but the United States Government, on behalf of the holders of a concession for a line of steamers between New York and Dominican ports, demanded that it should be annulled, on the ground that by the terms of the concession the port charges could not be reduced, and it has accordingly been annulled by the Decree of 7th March, 1903, which provides that the port charges shall be paid in American gold.

MINERALS, METALS, AND MACHINERY.

TRANSVAAL.

With reference to the figures published on p. 120 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 16th April last, it may be noted that, according to the monthly analysis of gold production in the Transvaal, issued by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, the output of gold in March last was 217,466 ozs. valued at 923,739*l*.

SWEDEN.

Referring to the notice on p. 405 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th February last, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul at Stockholm, forwarding statistics relating to the Swedish iron trade for the first quarter of 1903, taken from a report read at a recent meeting held by the Swedish Iron Masters' Association. The corresponding figures for 1902 have been added for the purposes of comparison:—

Production of Iron.

	Jan.-Mar. 1902.	Jan.-Mar. 1903.
	Metric tons.	Metric tons.
Pig-iron... ..	123,300	143,900
Bloom iron	36,000	47,300
Bessemer ingots	15,200	21,300
Siemens-Martin ingots	40,700	51,200

During the quarter January to March, 1903, 130 blast furnaces, 287 hearths, 20 Bessemer and 45 Martin furnaces were in operation, as against 113, 252, 17 and 40 respectively in the corresponding period of the previous year.

ASIATIC RUSSIA.

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of 20th April/3rd May quotes an announcement which appeared in the "Turkestan Russe," to the effect that boring works in the Ferghana Territory have led to the discovery of a bed of rich naphtha bearing land. This discovery is of considerable interest, the land being situated near the Central Asian Railway.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 9th May were as follow :—

Wheat	...	...	...	...	27s. 6d.
Barley	...	...	...	...	21s. 10d.
Oats	...	...	...	...	18s. 2d.

For further particulars see p. 324.

A statement is published on p. 325, showing the quantities of Imports of Agricultural Produce. the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 9th May, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

NICARAGUA.

H.M. Consul at Granada reports that since 1901 cotton is being planted in the department of Chinandega, and Cotton Planting. is exported to Liverpool, fetching about. 5d. per lb. During last year (1902) about 6,000 cwt. were exported with a good result to planters, and the industry is likely to increase and become very profitable. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,963.*)

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 7th May was Cotton Statistics. 33,322 and the number imported during the 19 weeks ended the 7th May was 1,887,308. As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 7th May, 4,226 bales, and for the 19 weeks, 179,425.

For further details see p. 324.

The number of emigrants that left the United Kingdom during the month of April, 1903, was 53,323, as compared with 44,185 during the corresponding month of 1902. During the four months ended April, 1903, 132,020 emigrants left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe as compared with 100,471 during the same period of 1902.

For further details see p. 326.

*Miscellaneous.***UNITED KINGDOM—continued.**

The number of aliens arriving at ports in the United Kingdom during April, 1903, was 24,448 and during the four months ended April, 68,241. Detailed statistics of alien immigration will be found on p. 327.

The values of the total quantity of fish returned as landed on the coasts of the British Isles during the month of April, 1903, were as follow :—

	£
English and Welsh Coasts	585,583
Scotch Coasts	121,833
Irish Coasts	25,486

Detailed statistics showing the kinds of fish landed, and giving particulars for the four months ended April, will be found for England and Wales on p. 328, for Scotland on p. 329, and for Ireland on p. 330.

PORTUGAL.

In his report on the foreign trade of Portugal in 1902, the Commercial Attaché to H.M. Legation at Lisbon states that with regard to the trade of Portuguese colonies, no particulars for 1902 can be given until the publication of the general statistics later on in the year.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the products of the Portuguese colonies re-exported from Portugal in the year 1902 :—

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilos.	£
India-rubber	2,399,484	385,400
Cocoa	16,222,034	831,800
Coffee	3,466,143	84,300
Wax	470,681	49,900
Ivory	5,728	3,100
Palm and Coco oil	1,462	109
Oleaginous seeds	95,474	1,200
Canary seed	203,310	2,700
Other articles	509,607	9,600
Total Value ... ..	...	1,868,100

(Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,954.)

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 19 Weeks ended 7th May, 1903.

	Week ended 7th May, 1903.	19 Weeks ended 7th May, 1903.	Week ended 7th May, 1903.	19 weeks ended 7th May, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	15,639	1,503,829	1,766	85,913
Brazilian	—	90,308	942	17,610
East Indian	11,454	49,405	250	12,550
Egyptian	5,441	225,018	1,136	59,585
Miscellaneous	788	18,748	132	3,767
Total	33,322	1,887,308	4,226	179,425

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 9th May, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

		Average Price.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 9th May, 1903	... ..	27	6	21	10	18	2
Corresponding week in—							
1896 ... ..	...	25	7	21	0	14	5
1897 ... ..	...	27	11	20	2	17	7
1898 ... ..	...	45	11	37	1	21	1
1899 ... ..	...	25	4	23	11	17	9
1900 ... ..	...	25	11	24	10	17	11
1901 ... ..	...	27	3	26	2	19	1
1902 ... ..	...	30	9	26	10	22	6

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 9th May, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 9th May, 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	6,819	7,181
Sheep and lambs	"	7,786	2,051
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	547	645
Fresh meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	69,904	74,602
Mutton	"	97,274	76,728
Pork	"	8,756	8,545
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	74,716	114,279
Beef	"	8,508	8,275
Hams	"	12,778	34,774
Pork	"	2,686	3,485
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	12,512	14,693
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	9,384	15,096
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	65,252	74,881
Margarine	"	14,662	81,913
Cheese	"	24,041	31,430
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	118	5
" cream	"	87	45
" condensed	"	21,929	18,011
" preserved, other kinds	"	138	20
Eggs	Grt. Hndr.	270,405	336,354
Poultry and game	Value £	15,915	16,328
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	8,546	3,656
Lard	"	35,185	38,576
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,142,186	2,186,556
Wheat-meal and flour	"	870,051	345,438
Barley	"	405,204	169,112
Oats	"	871,788	310,258
Peas	"	42,540	48,298
Beans	"	12,849	58,986
Maize or Indian corn	"	784,768	481,263
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	11,078	13,430
Apricots and peaches	"	—	97
Bananas	Bunches.	70,440	33,450
Cherries	Cwts.	7	589
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	184	122
Grapes	"	210	192
Lemons	"	21,187	41,810
Oranges	"	190,964	166,697
Pears	"	1,071	74
Plums	"	—	—
Strawberries	"	—	1
Unenumerated	"	2,064	544
Hay	Tons.	2,441	9,879
Straw	"	1,709	1,621
Hops	Cwts.	274	629
Locust beans	"	21,596	44,880
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	250,809	92,107
Potatoes	Cwts.	209,894	112,606
Tomatoes	"	22,822	15,838
Unenumerated	Value £	12,701	14,811
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	2,858	1,219
Preserved by canning	"	8,297	3,522

Emigration.—April, 1903.

Return of the Numbers, Nationalities, and *Destinations of the Passengers that left the United Kingdom for Places out of Europe during the Month ended 30th April, 1903, and the Four Months ended 30th April, 1903, compared with the corresponding periods of the previous Year.

Nationality.	BRITISH EMPIRE.						FOREIGN COUNTRIES.			Grand Total.	
	British North America.	Australia and New Zealand.	British South Africa.	India.	Other British Colonies and Possessions.	Total.	United States.	Other Foreign Countries.	Total.		
	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1902.
Month ended 30th April, 1903.											
English	7,727	576	3,034	201	244	11,782	6,252	240	6,592	18,374	11,001
Scottish	1,716	93	533	10	31	2,383	1,668	36	1,704	4,087	2,027
Irish	320	49	98	6	7	480	7,991	18	8,009	8,489	8,300
Total of British origin ...	9,763	718	3,665	217	282	14,645	15,911	294	16,205	30,950	21,457
Foreigners	5,214	14	582	11	18	5,839	15,124	91	15,215	21,054	22,340
Nationalities not distinguished	5	...	...	80	155	240	950	129	1,079	1,319	258
Total	14,982	732	4,247	308	455	20,734	31,985	614	32,599	53,323	44,185
Total for corresponding month, 1902	8,999	647	2,581	245	413	13,085	30,505	595	31,100	44,185	
Four Months ended 30th April, 1903.											
English	17,890	2,611	12,908	1,131	1,222	35,562	15,217	1,543	16,760	52,322	33,051
Scottish	3,182	458	1,933	56	156	5,780	3,503	202	3,705	9,485	5,701
Irish	771	197	440	12	26	1,446	11,177	52	11,229	12,675	12,151
Total of British origin ...	21,843	3,261	15,281	1,199	1,404	42,788	29,897	1,797	31,694	74,482	50,903
Foreigners	13,248	63	3,330	19	82	16,942	37,147	407	37,554	54,496	47,905
Nationalities not distinguished	30	...	...	380	778	1,178	1,098	706	1,804	3,042	1,663
Total	34,911	3,324	18,611	1,598	2,264	60,908	68,142	2,970	71,112	132,020	100,471
Total for corresponding months, 1902	17,819	3,989	9,775	1,279	2,302	35,164	62,482	2,825	65,307	100,471	

* The destinations given are, in all cases, based on the ports at which the passengers contracted to land.

NOTE.—The above figures being made up at the earliest possible date after the close of each month, are subject to correction in the Annual Returns.

Alien Immigration—April.

Statement showing the Number of Aliens that Arrived from the Continent at Ports† in the United Kingdom during the Month and Four Months ended 30th April, 1903, compared with the corresponding periods of the previous Year.

(Compiled from the Alien Lists received by the Customs under Act 6 Will 4, c. 11, sec. 2.)

	Hamburg, Bremen, and Bremerhaven.		Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and Antwerp.		Gothenburg, Christiania, Arendal, and Christiansand.		Libau.		Dieppe.		Other Continental Ports.		Total.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Month ended 30th April.														
Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom :*														
Arrived at London ...	761	880	492	473	100	188	335	215	...	...	194	205	1,932	1,961
" Grimsby ...	317	313	74	51	4	7	...	...	...	...	47	84	442	403
" Hull ...	134	103	62	26	70	106	...	2	...	...	190	116	465	353
" Tyne Ports ...	9	26	17	43	177	250	...	...	...	...	290	298	472	619
" Leith ...	44	59	84	59	...	15	...	...	...	...	23	50	151	213
" Newhaven ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,761	1,942	...	...	1,761	1,942
" Other ports ...	27	82	17	27	63	137	1	...	...	...	941	641	1,051	887
Total ...	1,392	1,465	746	709	416	703	386	217	1,761	1,942	1,673	1,844	16,274	16,380
Aliens described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom :														
Arrived at Grimsby ...	376	87	1,678	1,792	1,541	1,522	...	157	...	...	700	613	4,230	4,171
" Harwich ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,650	1,691	1,656	1,691
" Hull ...	44	212	588	698	5,250	4,712	790	621	...	...	3,767	4,160	10,439	10,403
" Other ports ...	8	...	188	113	175	155	...	...	...	...	1,469	1,774	1,794	2,036
Total ...	428	299	2,404	2,603	6,966	6,389	790	778	...	...	7,586	8,234	18,174	18,303
Total of Aliens arrived ...	1,720	1,764	3,150	3,312	7,382	7,092	1,176	995	1,761	1,942	9,259	9,578	24,448	24,683
Four Months ended 30th April.														
Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom :*														
Total No. ...	6,761	5,538	3,394	2,819	1,786	2,048	1,480	1,112	4,963	4,974	5,372	4,457	23,716	20,943
Aliens described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom :														
Total No. ...	1,382	562	7,303	6,375	14,352	11,430	1,946	1,554	...	...	19,542	18,738	44,525	33,679
Total of Aliens arrived ...	8,133	6,120	10,697	9,194	16,068	13,478	3,426	2,666	4,963	4,974	24,914	23,195	68,241	54,622

* The distinction made in this Return between "Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as en route to places out of the United Kingdom," and "Aliens described in the Alien Lists as en route, &c.," is due to the fact that a large number of Aliens who arrive from Continental ports are reported to be on the way to places out of the United Kingdom, and it is considered desirable to record this fact. But it is not thereby implied that the "Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as en route, &c.," come to this country for settlement, there being in fact a large emigration of foreigners from this country, while many of the Aliens arriving from Continental ports return to the Continent. (See Annual Report on Emigration and Immigration, No. 183, Sess. 1901, and Monthly Emigration Returns.)

† The ports from which Alien Lists are received are Aberdeen, Belfast, Blyth, Bristol, Cardiff, Dover, Dublin, Folkestone, Glasgow, Goolie, Grangemouth, Granton, Greenock, Grimsby, Harwich, Hull, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Liverpool, London, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Newhaven, Newport, North Shields, South Shields, Southampton, Sunderland, and West Hartlepool. The lists received from Dover, Folkestone, Harwich, Newhaven, and Southampton show only deck passengers and persons who after landing, proceed by train as third-class passengers.

‡ The number of sailors included with the Aliens who arrived at ports in the United Kingdom not en route to places out of the United Kingdom in the month of April, 1903, was 1,378, and 1,465 in the same month of 1902; in the four months ended April, 1903, the number was 4,634, and in the same months of 1902 the number was 5,069.

Fishery Statistics.—England and Wales.

TOTAL QUANTITY AND VALUE of FISH landed in the Month and Four Months ended 30th April, 1903, and the corresponding periods of the previous Year.

	April.		Four Months ended April.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
QUANTITY.				
Brill	Cwts. 2,383	Cwts. 1,810	Cwts. 7,811	Cwts. 7,232
Soles	7,025	1,894	21,098	26,602
Sparling	—	—	—	—
Turbot	4,719	3,667	18,863	16,689
Prime fish not separately distinguished	688	2,008	1,010	—
Total prime fish	14,126	11,099	48,976	53,503
Catfish	4,151	—	11,033	—
Cod	143,989	186,304	527,486	381,936
Conger Eels	4,874	3,716	12,134	15,969
Dabs	8,566	8,539	34,334	26,858
Gurnards	8,321	10,053	25,462	38,691
Haddock	180,389	183,007	723,623	686,956
Hake	12,148	81,216	54,474	61,319
Halibut	9,748	10,388	18,650	28,384
Herrings	23,100	1,649	45,726	30,988
Lemon Soles	3,786	2,758	11,249	11,974
Ling	13,895	9,266	40,765	42,408
Mackerel	60,403	73,368	84,963	83,735
Megrims	2,712	—	6,801	—
Monks (or Anglers)	2,947	—	11,072	—
Pilchards	60	84	1,310	1,262
Plaice	118,872	165,985	267,047	418,827
Skates and Rays	29,978	23,106	108,874	99,236
Sprats	2	—	35,178	13,848
Torsk	—	—	3,415	—
Whiting	20,964	19,287	88,685	85,495
Witches	2,409	—	9,734	—
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish	36,801	43,821	130,898	201,722
Total	702,550	663,640	2,394,789	2,216,004
Shell fish:—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Crabs	1,029,707	1,379,838	1,940,804	1,800,162
Lobsters	49,673	47,690	85,736	86,693
Oysters	2,455,000	1,931,000	8,731,000	10,488,000
Other shell fish	Cwts. 22,709	Cwts. 27,154	Cwts. 106,144	Cwts. 139,768
VALUE.				
Brill	£ 7,105	£ 5,407	£ 22,225	£ 22,080
Soles	41,779	36,160	150,083	197,066
Sparling	—	—	—	—
Turbot	20,014	17,216	80,909	79,442
Prime fish not separately distinguished	—	1,463	4,282	11,391
Total prime fish	68,898	68,266	237,499	310,119
Catfish	1,652	—	5,896	—
Cod	81,989	65,880	358,553	239,000
Conger Eels	4,161	3,167	11,248	14,043
Dabs	5,125	4,687	23,542	16,498
Gurnards	2,649	3,615	9,079	13,498
Haddock	127,124	104,066	549,817	523,946
Hake	18,608	17,212	56,795	62,786
Halibut	29,400	24,608	65,298	76,787
Herrings	5,696	558	12,322	12,401
Lemon Soles	9,490	8,093	33,547	33,891
Ling	8,778	6,297	28,654	27,610
Mackerel	57,735	73,556	88,003	88,186
Megrims	2,409	—	6,215	—
Monks (or Anglers)	1,113	—	4,255	—
Pilchards	13	21	321	351
Plaice	88,241	104,439	275,614	378,538
Skates and Rays	16,777	11,756	63,149	60,653
Sprats	2	—	5,162	3,490
Torsk	234	—	2,364	—
Whiting	10,657	9,419	44,007	43,331
Witches	3,229	—	12,904	—
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish	20,887	26,006	73,149	126,896
Total	559,993	564,666	1,986,793	2,010,929
Shell fish:—				
Crabs	9,476	12,597	18,028	17,394
Lobsters	2,478	2,381	4,638	4,494
Oysters	6,376	4,907	29,233	31,297
Other shell fish	7,260	7,748	27,835	31,836
Total	25,590	27,667	79,736	84,993
Total value of fish landed	585,583	592,333	2,066,529	2,095,922

NOTE.—The figures for 1903 are subject to correction in the Annual Return. The values given are the actual values returned by the local officers at each place.

* Included under "Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish," in this year.

Fishery Statistics.—Scotland.

STATEMENT of the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of the FISH returned as landed on the SCOTTISH COASTS during the Month and Four Months ended 30th April, 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1902.

	April.		Four Months ended April.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
QUANTITY.				
	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.
Sparling	2	6	32	68
Turbot	802	371	2,223	1,160
Cod	41,397	40,408	158,974	165,486
Conger Eel	844	1,788	5,587	8,599
Flounder, Plaice, Brill	9,023	9,640	35,539	39,878
Haddock	73,603	68,480	277,626	279,384
Halibut	2,456	3,370	4,918	7,609
Herrings	9,331	11,378	330,625	466,998
Lemon Soles	1,720	1,438	5,038	4,734
Ling	9,523	19,742	28,270	64,976
Mackerel	55	6	348	121
Seaith (Coal Fish)	8,225	4,797	25,500	87,464
Skate	8,238	3,968	26,970	48,068
Sprats	261	47	32,638	1,185
Torsk (Tusk)	978	1,217	2,857	3,405
Whiting	14,066	15,987	52,362	65,918
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish	5,637	5,331	18,330	21,606
Total	186,159	187,687	1,002,816	1,180,479
Shell fish:—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Crabs	511,278	431,108	918,706	797,606
Lobsters	42,606	66,635	113,508	171,058
Oysters	17,067	84,915	93,582	191,063
Clams	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.
Mussels	384	175	1,764	8,011
Other shell fish	9,752	5,859	34,191	28,156
Total	6,803	6,666	19,679	21,273
VALUE.				
	£	£	£	£
Sparling	9	22	155	277
Turbot	3,266	1,618	10,280	5,348
Cod	22,055	18,008	86,591	89,233
Conger Eel	439	584	3,381	4,107
Flounder, Plaice, Brill	11,614	10,395	48,452	43,537
Haddock	48,262	43,617	196,414	199,688
Halibut	5,358	6,082	11,850	16,479
Herrings	2,396	2,959	123,938	177,297
Lemon Soles	4,109	3,768	13,699	19,309
Ling	4,080	6,438	13,297	31,426
Mackerel	34	6	134	114
Seaith (Coal Fish)	1,438	708	5,488	5,436
Skate	2,447	2,394	10,045	18,349
Sprats	43	11	2,422	231
Torsk (Tusk)	267	889	921	966
Whiting	5,540	6,023	22,820	24,451
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish	2,057	1,868	6,888	7,738
Total	113,394	104,776	555,775	619,851
Shell fish:—				
Crabs	3,566	2,720	5,705	4,629
Lobsters	2,590	3,616	6,807	9,486
Oysters	70	134	397	780
Clams	57	81	251	276
Mussels	562	319	2,020	1,622
Other shell fish	1,594	1,709	4,678	5,171
Total	8,459	8,519	19,858	21,933
Total value of fish landed... ..	121,833	113,295	575,633	641,784

NOTE.—The above figures are subject to correction in the Annual Returns.

Fishery Statistics.—Ireland.

STATEMENT of the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of the FISH returned as landed on the IRISH COASTS during the Month and Four Months ended 30th April 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the previous Year.

	April.		Four Months ended April.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
QUANTITY.				
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Brill	92	*	230	*
Soles	409	574	932	1,136
Turbot	78	67	245	295
Total prime fish	579	641	1,427	1,631
Cod	2,084	1,100	8,984	6,734
Conger Eel	458	*	2,143	*
Haddock	512	144	1,813	3,208
Hake	409	426	1,769	2,678
Herrings	4,977	2,997	9,464	15,051
Ling	951	401	1,878	2,248
Mackerel	21,373	14,390	22,399	19,041
Plaice	2,498	*	5,779	*
Ray or Skate	884	*	2,686	*
Sprats	—	—	—	68
Whiting	1,801	1,568	7,476	8,789
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ...	2,711	5,234	9,664	19,564
Total	39,137	57,501	75,182	78,846
Shell fish:—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Crabs	4,123	11,160	4,477	11,700
Lobsters	6,326	7,808	11,403	15,922
Oysters	6,700	13,360	+258,430	93,640
Mussels	1,626	*	7,512	*
Other shell fish	1,749	3,291	7,334	80,181
VALUE.				
	£	£	£	£
Brill	280	*	616	*
Soles	1,459	2,628	4,537	5,306
Turbot	367	241	1,417	1,031
Total prime fish	2,106	2,869	6,570	6,387
Cod	1,394	801	6,443	5,287
Conger Eel	298	*	1,523	*
Haddock	607	165	1,608	3,947
Hake	476	452	1,538	3,037
Herrings	749	1,135	2,308	6,126
Ling	439	188	670	1,228
Mackerel	13,754	10,844	14,585	13,251
Plaice	1,996	*	6,409	*
Ray or Skate	265	*	967	*
Sprats	—	—	—	87
Whiting	1,091	931	4,862	6,036
Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ...	1,463	4,005	5,623	15,634
Total	24,636	21,390	53,305	59,860
Shell fish:—				
Crabs	25	72	28	76
Lobsters	325	323	580	669
Oysters	† 17	42	+ 265	212
Mussels	46	*	323	*
Other shell fish	435	410	1,640	2,095
Total	648	847	2,836	3,052
Total value of fish landed	25,486	22,237	56,141	62,912

NOTE.—The above figures are subject to correction in the Annual Returns. The values given are the actual values returned by the local officers at each place.

* Included under "Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish" prior to 1st June, 1902.

† Including returns for Tralee, no returns having been received in the corresponding months of last year.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of April, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1901, in two Volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 7d. for the first, and 4s. 10d. for the second Volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and, in the second volume, details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 15th April:—State of the Labour Market in March; Wages Agreement in the South Wales Coal Trade; Labour Legislation in Holland; Report of the American Coal Strike Commission; New German Merchant Shipping Acts; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Prices of Coal and Iron; New Industrial Organisations Registered in 1902; Report of Canadian Department of Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the *Annual Series* issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,967. Boston, 1902.

Great industrial prosperity.
Increase in imports but falling-off in exports, chiefly provisions, breadstuffs and raw cotton.

Local feeling against extension of credit in foreign trade.

The coal strike and its effect generally.

Large increase in immigrants, notably from Italy.

Shipping returns.

Tables showing value of

Government Publications.

imports and exports at Boston during 1900-02, and also by countries.

Freight rates and pilotage rates.

This publication contains also a report by the British Vice-Consul at Portland, Maine.

No. 2,968. Texas, 1902.

Progress of Galveston as an exporting port.

Important share of the United Kingdom in the import trade of Galveston.

Port facilities at Galveston; harbour improvements; sea wall.

Galveston's grain trade.

This publication contains also a report by the British Vice-Consul at Sabine Pass and Port Arthur.

Imports, subject to duty and duty free, and exports at Galveston during 1902, by countries.

Tables showing exports of cotton, cotton-seed meal and cake, and cotton-seed oil to principal countries during years 1898-1902.

No. 2,969. Hankow, 1902.

Slight decrease in sterling value of trade.

Progress of Great Britain and other nations.

Analysis of import and export trade.

Shipping returns.

Tables showing principal articles imported and exported at Hankow during 1901 and 1902, also totals by countries.

No. 2,970. Aleppo and Adana, 1902.

Aleppo trade declining, but markets in the vilayet of Adana improving.

Hints as to the extension of business.

Tabular statements showing quantity and value of all articles imported and exported through the Port of Alexandretta during 1901 and 1902, with remarks as to character of trade.

Shipping returns of Alexandretta and Mersina, distinguishing share of Great Britain.

Returns of imports and exports at Mersina by countries, with special tables and observations regarding interchange with United Kingdom.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Russia—New General Customs Tariff—Translation. [Cd. 1525.] Price 7½d.

The translation of the proposed new Russian Customs Tariff has been prepared in the Board of Trade; an explanatory statement as to the non-enforcement of the Tariff at present will be found on p. 313 of this issue of the Journal.

*Government Publications.**Railway Returns (Preliminary Statement). [Cd. 1,578.] Price ½d.*

This statement has been prepared in the Board of Trade and is issued in anticipation of the publication of the complete and detailed returns. The following figures, which are subject to slight modification when the full returns are available, show how the working of British railways in 1902 compared with 1901 :—

	1901.	1902. (Preliminary figures.)
Number of passengers conveyed, exclusive of season ticket holders	1,172,395,900	1,188,568,000
Quantity of minerals conveyed	298,030,644 tons	320,156,000 tons
" general merchandise conveyed	117,922,797 "	116,899,000 "
Number of miles travelled by trains	398,893,682 miles	399,853,000 miles
Gross receipts £	106,615,753	109,534,000
Working expenditure £	67,546,677	67,907,000
Net receipts £	39,069,076	41,627,000

Life Assurance Companies. 123. Price 3s. 8d.

This return, which is issued annually by the Board of Trade, contains statements of accounts and abstracts of actuarial reports of life assurance companies deposited at the Board of Trade under Section 10 of the Life Assurance Companies' Act, 1870. The total number of companies dealt with in the summary of accounts is 94, of which 76 have been classed as ordinary, 11 as industrial, whilst 7 appear in both classes. The net amount of assurances in force, as shown by the last returns of companies, was 661,361,000*l.* in ordinary, and 207,547,000*l.* in industrial business.

Index to Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Representatives abroad on Trade and Subjects of General Interest, 1902. [Cd. 1,561.] Price 11d.

This index of subjects dealt with in the Report of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Officers abroad, issued by the Foreign Office during the year 1902, has been prepared in the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade. The appendix gives a list of all the Reports indexed, and the price of each. A note of certain Parliamentary Papers on trade and subjects of general economic interest, other than the Reports of His Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Officers abroad, also issued by the Foreign Office during the year 1902, is given in an addendum.

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

The following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in *italics*.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
EUROPE—			AFRICA—		
2934	Denmark:		2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
	Denmark (Supplementary) 1901	1 <i>d.</i>	2948	Somaliland Protectorate 1901-02	2½ <i>d.</i>
France:			588	<i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda</i>	1 <i>d.</i>
2949	Brest 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	AMERICA, NORTH—		
2955	Cherbourg	1½ <i>d.</i>	United States of America:		
2941	French Guinea ... 1901	1½ <i>d.</i>	2967	Boston 1902	2½ <i>d.</i>
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2952	Chicago... ..	4 <i>d.</i>
2960	Havre	3 <i>d.</i>	2942	New Orleans	2½ <i>d.</i>
2966	Indo-China	1½ <i>d.</i>	2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>
Germany:			2968	Texas	2 <i>d.</i>
2956	Chemnitz 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	587	<i>Coal Industry of the United States in 1901</i>	2 <i>d.</i>
2945	Estimates of the German Empire 1903	1 <i>d.</i>	Mexico:		
2959	Germany 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2925	Mexico 1901	2½ <i>d.</i>
Greece:			2951	Mexico City 1902	2½ <i>d.</i>
2957	Cyclades 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	AMERICA, CENTRAL—		
2953	Morea, and Provinces of Acarnania and Ætolia 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	2963	Nicaragua 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2947	Thessaly	1½ <i>d.</i>	AMERICA, SOUTH—		
Italy:			Argentina:		
2930	Finances of Italy ... 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2940	Argentine finances 1901-02	1½ <i>d.</i>
2933	Italy 1901	3 <i>d.</i>	2961	Buenos Ayres 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>
2936	Naples 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	Brazil:		
2935	Venice 1901-02	1½ <i>d.</i>	2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>
Netherlands:			2928	Rio de Janeiro ... 1901	1½ <i>d.</i>
2965	Amsterdam 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	Chile:		
Portugal:			2946	Coquimbo 1901	1½ <i>d.</i>
2954	Portugal 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	WEST INDIES—		
Russia:			2927	Hayti 1901	1 <i>d.</i>
2943	Odesa (Supplementary) 1901	1½ <i>d.</i>	ASIA—		
Servia:			China:		
2958	Servia 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	2969	Hankow 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>
Spain:			Siam:		
2924	Bilbao 1901	2½ <i>d.</i>	2929	Chiengmai 1901	1 <i>d.</i>
2964	Bilbao 1902	2 <i>d.</i>	PACIFIC ISLANDS—		
Turkey:			2937	Samoa 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2970	Aleppo and Adana ... 1902	2 <i>d.</i>			
2950	Constantinople	2 <i>d.</i>			
2932	Crete 1901	1 <i>d.</i>			
2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899-1901	2 <i>d.</i>			
2962	Palestine 1902	1 <i>d.</i>			

*Government Publications.***Treaty Series.**

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.		Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries... ..	1d.
	Denmark:	
5	Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark for regulating the fisheries outside territorial waters in the ocean surrounding the Faroë Islands and Iceland... ..	7½d.
	France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1d.
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	United States of America:	
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska	1d.
	ASIA—	
	Corea:	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	1d.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½d.
378	British Guiana	2½d.
379	Mauritius	3½d.
380	Basutoland	3d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2½d.
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½d.
—	Cyprus	3d.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.

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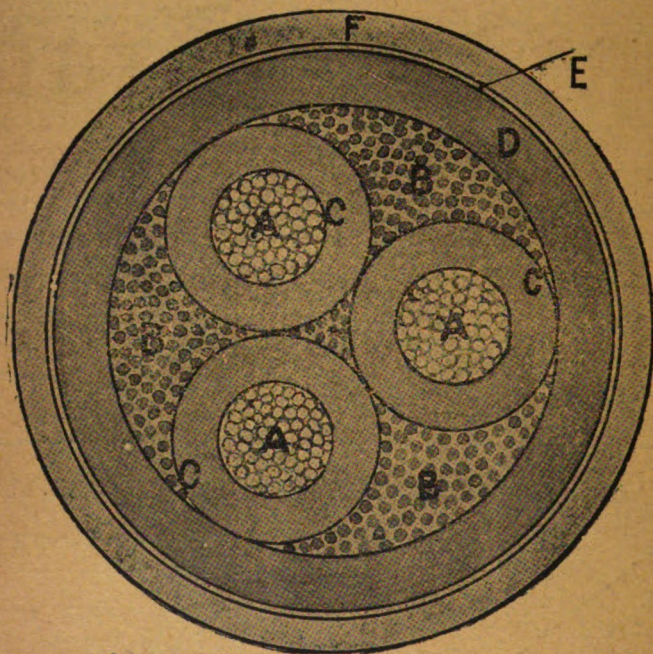
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THE

Board of Trade Journal



(With which is incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

MAY 21, 1903.

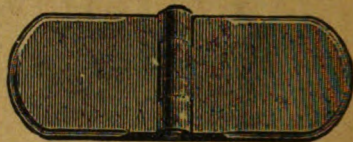
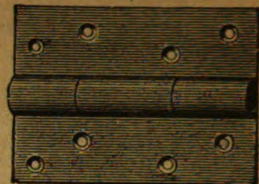
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HARVARD COLLEGE
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CAMBRIDGE, MA

THE Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. XLI.]

May 21, 1903.

[No. 338.]

All applications respecting subscription to the "Board of Trade Journal," or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London, to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. iv. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office on pp. 382-3.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on pp. 378-80.

The first of the periodical "Bulletins" to be issued as Supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal," containing information as to the work carried on in the Imperial Institute, at South Kensington, and reports prepared by the Scientific and Technical Department of the Institute, is published (price One Penny) with the present issue of the "Journal."

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: ADMIRALTY.

Tenders will be received until 12 o'clock noon on Thursday, the 4th June, for the supply to H.M. Dockyards of Riga and St. Petersburg hemp.

**Tenders for
Baltic Hemp.**

Forms of tender, containing conditions of contract and all particulars, may be obtained on personal application at the Contract Department, Admiralty, or by letter addressed "Director of Navy Contracts, Admiralty, London, S.W."

A

Openings for British Trade.

CAPE COLONY.

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade from the War Office, to the effect that War Department land, including main barracks situated thereon, at Cape Town, will be sold in lots by auction, about July next. For particulars, apply to the Officer Commanding, Royal Engineers, The Castle, Cape Town.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 24th April announces that tenders are invited for the supply of the following oils required for the service of the Cape Railway Department during the year 1903 :—

83,000 gallons of castor oil.
15,000 gallons of lard oil.
56,000 gallons of paraffin oil.

Forms of tender, conditions of contract, and all other particulars may be obtained at the Railway Stores, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and East London.

Sealed tenders (in original only), addressed to the Controller and Auditor-General, Cape Town, marked outside, "Tender for Oils," will be received up to the 25th June, 1903.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

CEYLON.

The Government of Ceylon from time to time requires supplies of open wove bleached bandages 6 yards by 2½ inches, and a sample of the pattern preferred has been lodged with the Crown Agents for the Colonies. This sample can be seen by any British manufacturer on personal application in Downing Street, and quotations may be sent in to the Crown Agents up to the 30th May. Those firms who have already been communicated with by the Crown Agents need not of course apply again.

MALTA.

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade from the Crown Agents for the Colonies to the effect that sealed tenders will be received at the office of the Receiver General and Director of Contracts, Valletta, Malta, up to 11 a.m. on Friday, the 30th October, 1903, for the concession of the right to construct a lift from the Marina to the Upper Barracca, as shown on a site plan which may be seen in the office of Public Works, and to work the same for a period of either 60 or 99 years, together with the right to levy tolls and transit dues.

Openings for British Trade.

Tenderers should specify the arrangements which they propose for providing the necessary capital, and the period within which the work will be completed. Every tender should be accompanied with detailed plans and specifications of the proposed scheme.

No tender will be considered unless it is signed by the party tendering and by a responsible person engaging to become bound with him for the due performance of the contract, and unless a deposit of 100% be paid in the above-mentioned office; such deposit to be forfeited in favour of the Government, should the party tendering or his surety, in the event of the tender being accepted, fail to appear to sign the contract within three days from the date of the notice given to them to that effect. Any deposit, not so forfeited, will be returned immediately after written notice shall have been given to the party whose tender is accepted.

The Government does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender, and tenderers should be prepared to submit to any alteration in their plans which may be called for by the Military Authorities.

Information regarding the conditions of the concession may be obtained at the Receiver General's office. Draft of conditions may also be obtained at the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Downing Street, S.W., with whom the deposit of 100% may be lodged.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

In an article on "Agriculture in British East Africa" (see pp. 348-9), alluding to the high lands it is pointed out that although the country is a healthy one, with a rich volcanic soil, capable of producing coffee, cotton, flax, and other fibres, grain, potatoes, &c., there are at present no agricultural implements in the Protectorate with the exception of native ploughs, and further, that although bees are plentiful, there is not one properly constructed beehive there.

DENMARK.

The "Berlingske Tidende" of 11th May published a notice calling for tenders for the supply to the State Railways Department of 10,900 electric glow-lamps, and 147,200 sets of carbon pencils for arc lamps. Tenders must be drawn up on special forms, and sent in, before 1 p.m. on 30th May, to the office of the Locomotive Department of the Danish State Railways, Colbjørnsensgade 6 (2nd Sal), Copenhagen, where forms and conditions of tender may be obtained.

Openings for British Trade.

NETHERLANDS.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a despatch from H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, reporting that the Municipality of Rotterdam will receive tenders on the 8th June next, for the supply of 1,600,770 kilogs. of cast-iron water pipes and appurtenances for the City Waterworks, to be delivered in two lots.

Detailed particulars can be obtained from the booksellers, Widow P. van Waesbarge & Son, Rotterdam, at a cost of 50 cents (10*d.*) per copy.

BELGIUM.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 9th May announces that tenders will be opened on the 17th June by the "Société National des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux," at No. 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels, for the construction of the section from Vossem to Weert Saint George of the local line from Tervueren to Tirlemont.

The upset price of the work is 243,361 francs (9,732*l.*) and a deposit of 24,000 francs (960*l.*) is required. Tenders by registered letter must be addressed to the Director-General of the Company at the address given above, where they will be received not later than the 16th June. Plans, estimates, and conditions of contract may be seen at the Company's office and at the office of M. Darteville, Rue de Turquie No. 18, Saint Gilles, Bruxelles.

The conditions of contract may be obtained on payment of 1 franc.

PORTUGAL.

Referring to the announcement on p. 485 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 11th December last, relative to the general plan of railway extension to the south of the Tagus, it may be noted that the "Diario do Governo" of 15th May contains a Royal Order, adding to the plan named two metre gauge lines, namely, one from Estremoz to Portalegre, and one from Fronteira to the neighbourhood of Coruche.

The "Diario" containing the above notice may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 17th May contains a notice calling for tenders which will be opened on 27th June next, in the Directorate General of the "Establecimiento Central de los Servicios Administrativo Militares" situated in the "Doks" (military factories) Barracks, Madrid, for the supply of 16,980 metres of cotton drill for making 9,000 pairs of drawers for the inmates of the military hospitals, at the upset price and under the conditions named in the statement on view in the above-named office.

The "Gaceta" containing the above notice may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

On pp. 350-3 will be found extracts from a report by Mr. Seymour Bell, British Commercial Agent in the United States, on Trade prospects in the Southern States of America, in which he points out the principal classes of goods in which British manufacturers might increase their trade in those States.

**Articles in which
British
Manufacturers
might increase
their Trade.**

CHILE.

With reference to the announcement published on p. 364 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 15th August, 1901, respecting the sale of certain nitrate fields in Chile, the "Chilian Times" of 25th March contains a translation of an Act of Congress recently promulgated by the Chilian Government, which authorises the President of the Republic to sell by public auction 24 nitrate fields belonging to the State, situated in the Provinces of Tarapaca and Antofagasta.

The sale is to take place in Santiago, due notice being given by publication in the "Diario Oficial" and in a daily paper in each of the cities of Santiago, Valparaiso, Iquique, London, Paris, Berlin, and New York.

ARGENTINA.

The "Boletin Oficial" of Argentina of 17th April contains a Presidential Decree, approving a plan presented by the Directorate-General of "Obras de Salubridad de la Nacion," for the construction of sewers in district No. 27 of Buenos Ayres, fixing the cost of the whole of the work at 232,649-91 dols. national money, or about 20,493*l.*, and authorising the said

**Construction of
Sewers. Pump-
ing Machinery.**

Openings for British Trade.

Department to call for tenders for 60 days for the construction of "collectors" and "machine houses" mentioned in the approved plan, the estimated cost of which is 196,245·95 dols. national money, or about 17,289l., and further to contract in Europe for pumping machinery, and for the work of installing it at a cost of not over 16,770·40 dols. national money, or about 1,477l.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

With reference to the announcement of the appointment of a British Royal Commission for the St. Louis Exhibition of 1904, noted in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 30th April, p. 199, the Board of Trade have received from Colonel C. M. Watson, C.B., C.M.G., the Secretary to the Commission, a copy of a circular issued to manufacturers and others interested in the commercial enterprise of the United Kingdom, asking whether they are prepared to send a representative exhibit of their manufactures, and, if so, whether they prefer to exhibit independently of other exhibitors, or collectively with them. He says it is desired, in the case of many industries, to secure collective exhibits, and for such exhibits the Commission will be prepared to undertake a part of the necessary outlay connected with freight, show cases, and general expenses. No charge will be made for space for any exhibit, whether independent or collective. Colonel Watson also encloses an official classification of the exhibit departments together with a pamphlet containing information concerning admission of exhibits free of duty, issuing of patents for inventions, registry of trade marks, and the Law of copyrights, &c.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a memorandum by H.M. Commercial Attaché at Berlin, respecting German participation in the St. Louis Exhibition. Before leaving for the United States on the 14th April, Dr. Lewald, the German Commissioner to the Exhibition, communicated to interested parties estimates of the cost to firms taking part therein. After mentioning the fact that the Prussian railway rates had been specially reduced by one half (*see further on*), and that special arrangements had also been made for reduced sea freights for exhibition goods (*see further on*), Dr. Lewald added that negotiations were also taking place with the American railway companies, and it was hoped that instead of the offer to

Openings for British Trade.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—continued.

grant free return freights, the German system of half rates both ways would be adopted. The Commissioner also promised to appoint a "business official" at the Exhibition, who would, if asked to do so by the exhibitors, watch over the various agents employed without any special charge.

The memorandum also states that the Prussian Minister of Commerce has decided that a collective exhibition of German industry shall be shown at St. Louis.

In forwarding his memorandum, Mr. Gastrell also enclosed a report
Reduced Rates on by H.M. Consul at Cologne explanatory of
Prussian State the reductions, referred to above, as granted on
Railways. the Prussian State Railways for the carriage of
exhibition goods.

This report may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

A further memorandum by H.M. Commercial Attaché at Berlin
Reduced Sea has been received, enclosing a statement by
Freights for H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg of the re-
German Exhibits. duced sea freights, before referred to, for
German exhibits destined for the St. Louis
Exhibition. It appears therefrom that the reductions are very
extensive, varying from 18 per cent. to 62 per cent., according to
the various classes of goods. If these rates be considered jointly
with the reduced freights on the Prussian State Railways, it is
clear that the intending exhibitors at the Exhibition are to be
extraordinarily favoured in conditions of transport.

Only goods of German origin can be shipped at these rates,
and on these conditions.

The list of rates may be seen by persons interested on appli-
cation at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of
Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of
10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Buenos Ayres.—In his recent report to the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres states that the United Kingdom supplied nearly 36 per cent. of the imports into that port in 1902. Alone of the great manufacturing countries it has an increase in imports, only 1·4 per cent., but the United States of America and all European countries showed a decrease. In exports there has been an increase in 1902 over 1901 of 7 per cent. The United Kingdom took 19 per cent. of the total exports, and showed an increase of 17 per cent. over 1901. No other European country has taken so much of the trade, nor can any other European country show so large a ratio of increase, except the Netherlands.

As regards methods of business the Consul writes:—

"There is no doubt that an expert traveller, with fresh ideas, knowing Spanish, will in almost any line obtain sufficient orders to pay his expenses. . . . The few British travellers whom I have come across here have invariably been satisfied with what they have done. The small shop, run by the owner and his family, is quite a feature of Buenos Ayres. The visiting of these, even in one line of business, would be a laborious affair, but the number of orders would doubtless repay the trouble.

"Too careful attention cannot be given to packing instructions (1) to comply with Customs requirements, and (2) to satisfy the fancies of the market.

"Circulars and price lists are but little attended to, even when in Spanish, whereas in English they are useless.

"As regards the selection of goods, constant change and novelty are essential, and equally so strict adherence to the requirements of the buyer and low prices."

Further on in his report the Consul states that the innumerable formalities and delays in collecting money from creditors unwilling to pay, and the complications in the sale or purchase of many things, have given rise to the employment of brokers on a very large scale, each broker making more or less a speciality of some branch of business, becoming thoroughly acquainted with it, and diminishing the possibility of subsequent claims on account of failure to comply with some formality.

Letters should be addressed to H.B.M. Consul, Buenos Ayres. Enquiries for addresses should be made to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, where a directory of Buenos Ayres and of the Argentine Republic is kept.

Enquiries respecting the financial standing of firms are more likely to obtain a satisfactory reply when made through a bank; but should the enquirer remit or authorise the necessary expenditure, the information asked for can be obtained by the Consulate through a private enquiry office.

"Breastrail," Buenos Ayres, has been registered as the telegraphic address of the Consulate.

In La Plata, San Nicolas and Bahia Blanca there are Vice-

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Consulates, subordinate to the Buenos Ayres Consulate, and in Puerto Gallegos there is a Consular Agency. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,961.*)

Bilbao.—H.M. Consul at Bilbao in his recent report writes that British manufacturers who may be desirous of establishing connection with the Bilbao market should not encourage themselves to hope that much way is to be made by mere correspondence. The Spaniard is innately conservative and likes to know the man he is dealing with. He is, moreover, particularly sensible to the charms of personal intercourse and gentle manners, and will thaw at the second or third approach if he appears somewhat shy on first acquaintance. Although there are no direct passenger lines from the United Kingdom to Bilbao, the expense of a return overland journey may be saved by securing a passage on one of the many home steamers carrying ore from Bilbao. Most of the masters have accommodation for a passenger or two. The voyage would cost a few pounds at most and might lead to business, where writing for names and addresses of dealers is not, it is to be feared, of much practical use. This is particularly the case when it is sought to break new ground and introduce an article that has no previous hold on the market, and of which, therefore, neither buyer nor seller could foretell the chances of acceptance, without personal enquiry and explanations. The Consul adds that, in spite of the fact that there is great wealth in Bilbao, no general taste has yet declared itself for high-priced goods, probably because the Customs duties on foreign-made articles are heavy. Cheapness and showiness rather than quality are therefore the chief desiderata with purchasers. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,964.*)

In the same report, H.M. Consul states that in the opinion of experienced agents a good deal more business might be done by British makers of machinery if they would grant terms as easy as those accorded by their German rivals, who are ready to take risks and renew bills. They, however, not unnaturally prefer the "safe and sure" to the "trade-at-any-price" system, of which perhaps time alone can decide the relative value. It is, nevertheless, averred that, in spite of the slow and uncertain process of legal remedy in Spain, very little trouble has occurred in questions of contracts for machinery. Spanish buyers consider it a hard condition that British manufacturers will not allow trials on the spot, but insist on these being made at the works. Advertisement is, moreover, too little resorted to by British firms, who will not, it is said, supply drawings for the purpose, whilst the technical papers throughout Spain are filled with German advertisements.

With regard to the class of British goods preferred in the Bilbao district, the Consul states that as a rule, preference is given to goods of British make, in articles that cannot be produced in the country,

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when the chief object is to secure durability in order to save the high Customs duty to which such articles would be liable if renewal became necessary.

Galveston.—In his recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 2,968), H.M. Consul at Galveston draws attention to the fact that that port is almost entirely an exporting point. The foreign importing business is, and has been for many years, entirely out of proportion to the exporting trade. Texas and the surrounding country are not manufacturing communities in the sense of those of the Eastern and Northern States, and in consequence there is no large importation of raw material. A certain amount of manufactures is imported direct from abroad, but even of these fully one-half last year went to other districts outside of Texas.

Again, with two lines of coastwise steamers, bringing from four to six cargoes every week from New York, the wholesale houses in Galveston and throughout the State, as well as in other contiguous States, find it cheaper and more convenient to make their purchases in the north, and buy what quantities they need, rather than import direct. The competition by rail is also a serious consideration. Almost every leading railway has an agent in the principal European ports, who is prepared to contract to send merchandise through to any point in the State. In spite, therefore, of many ships being available for the purpose of bringing freight to Galveston from abroad, these obstacles have hitherto militated greatly against direct importation.

The following table shows the value of the foreign imports at Galveston during the years 1898-1902, distinguishing the principal countries of origin:—

Year.	Total Value of Foreign Imports.	Value of Imports.			
		From United Kingdom and Colonies.	From Germany.	From France.	From Belgium.
1898	£ 459,965	£ 52,498	£ 59,666	£ 2,828	£ 20,478
1899	446,919	88,958	50,601	7,203	16,460
1900	288,016	92,614	30,416	8,212	37,020
1901	268,032	118,705	35,675	8,084	23,922
1902	543,468	278,597	82,513	9,978	81,805
Average, five years ...	401,280	126,274	51,774	7,260	35,937

Siberia.—A reference will be found on pp. 367-8 to a report by the British Commercial Agent in Russia relative to the projected erection at Omsk by Moscow textile firms of wholesale dépôt establishments for textile goods.

IMPORT TRADE OF THE TRANSVAAL (Two Months).

The following table, showing the value of the principal and other articles imported into the Transvaal in the first two months of 1903, as compared with the corresponding period of 1902, is compiled from official figures published in the Transvaal "Government Gazette" of 17th April:—

Imports.

Articles.	Two Months ended Feb., 1902.	Two Months ended Feb., 1903.
Metals and manufactures of (includes agricultural implements, bicycles, hardware, iron and steel manufactures, cutlery, machinery, &c.)	£ 389,000	£ 791,000
Apparel, haberdashery, &c. (includes hats)	172,000	562,000
Provisions, exclusive of corn and dairy products (includes coffee, chicory, biscuits, meats, fresh and preserved, fish, fresh and preserved, jams, sugar, tea, vegetables, fruits, condiments, salt, &c.)	143,000	561,000
Corn and grain (includes flour, meal and rice)	63,000	282,000
Wood and manufactures (includes furniture)	36,000	382,000
Leather and manufactures (includes saddlery and boots and shoes)	53,000	178,000
Dairy products (includes butter and butterine, eggs, cheese, preserved milk)	42,000	190,000
Beverages (includes ale, spirits, wine and mineral waters)	31,000	132,000
Drugs and chemicals	54,000	108,000
Groceries and oilmen's stores (includes oils and paints)	29,000	99,000
Cotton manufactures	28,000	68,000
Live animals	7,000	158,000
Woollen manufactures	12,000	42,000
Jewellery and plated ware (includes clocks and watches)	17,000	34,000
Soap and candles	21,000	58,000
Tobacco, raw and manufactured (includes cigars and cigarettes)	19,000	43,000
Vehicles (other than bicycles)	8,000	64,000
Stationery (includes books and printed matter)	14,000	54,000
Cocoa, chocolate, and confectionery	9,000	24,000
Toys and sporting goods	5,000	11,000
Tobacconist ware	5,000	8,000
Electric cable, wire, and fittings	4,000	3,000
Other articles of merchandise	63,000	274,000
Total... ..	£ 1,224,000	4,126,000

Of the total value of merchandise imported into the Transvaal during the first two months of 1903, 1,737,000*l.* worth were sent *viâ* Cape Colony, 1,839,000*l.* worth *viâ* Natal, and 550,000*l.* worth *viâ* Delagoa Bay.

NOTE.—The above figures do not include free importations for the use of the Local Government or Military Stores, South African Garrison Institute and Officers' Messes, Burgher Relief Committee, Repatriation Department, or Railway Material imported as "Public Stores."

AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

The Foreign Office have received from the East Africa Syndicate, Ltd., copy of a letter on "Agriculture in British East Africa, by a young New Zealander," *apropos* of the Nairobi* Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Show, from which the following is taken.

After alluding to the products of the soil exhibited, namely, vegetables of every class from a cabbage to a tomato, potatoes, wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat, maize, millet, fibre, castor-oil beans, sim-sim beans, ground-nuts, copra, grapes, pine-apples, oranges, pomegranates, mangoes, strawberries, figs, bananas and garden flowers, the writer continues:—

"Native humped cattle and fat-tailed sheep were all in splendid condition and simply rolling in fat. Horses and donkeys were looking well and some of them were very fine animals. Pigs were a healthy lot and showed good breeding.

"The only implements shown were two native ploughs—crooked sticks shod with iron. It staggered one to think that all the produce exhibited had been produced by these primitive implements, which must have been invented in the days of Adam.

"All work here is done by native labour; in most cases, ploughs not being used, the native digs the soil with his knife. There are few real axes in the country, no hoes, ploughs, harrows, scythes or cultivators' grindstones, or any other common farmers' implements.

"Although bees are plentiful, there is not a properly constructed beehive in the Protectorate.

"In spite of not having an implement in the country we have exported over 1,000 tons of potatoes in one season, and I hope to see British Africa supplying all the southern ports with potatoes within the next year or two.

"This is a healthy country with a rich volcanic soil, which is waiting for the white man to work it in a scientific manner; when this is done, East Africa should be able to lick creation in the way of producing coffee, cotton, oil, fibres, honey, grain, clover seeds, flax, pork and, perhaps, other things.

"Large tracts of this country are fit for sheep breeding, not the fat-tailed sheep of the country, but woolled sheep from Australia, Mexico or South America. And I am inclined to believe that with careful selecting, putting the native ewe to an imported ram, the local breed might be brought to carry saleable wool in about the sixth cross.

"It has already been proved by one of our best pioneers that in one cross native cow to imported bull will produce a fine animal, without the hump, fit for working or for beef, and with careful selection should also turn out good dairy stock, and, with the cheap labour, dairying should pay well here.

"But this is a planter's country, and a settler with a little

* Nairobi is on the highland, on the east side of the Victoria Nyanza Lake, about 255 miles from the lake and about 325 miles from Mombasa.

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capital will always make a living and come out all right in the end, but, as in any other part of the world, he will have a hard struggle. The capital a planter wants to start with here and do really well is about 1,000*l*. This will start a coffee plantation; in three years a settler gets his first crop, and the trees do not require renewing for about 12 years.

"Labour here is cheap, a native will work for 1*s*. 4*d*. a week and his food, which amounts to 1*d*. a day; of course, the labour is unskilled.

"Land can be bought freehold from the Government for 2*s*. 8*d*. per acre, and can also be obtained on a 99 years lease at 1*l*. per annum per 100 acres. With plenty of settlers in the country a market could easily be opened up with South Africa and India for beef, mutton and tallow, while coffee, cotton, fibre, wool, &c., would always find the home markets.

"Much has been done during the last year or two by the plucky settlers without capital or implements to prove what this country can do: The settlers are composed of men from all parts of the world, Britishers every one of them, and, looking round the show ground, one felt proud of them and sorry there were not more of the same sort in the country; if there were we would not hear the dismal tale that the Uganda Railway was not paying, and that the Government of this country is a burden on England

"Put 100 planters on the rich soil round Nairobi. They can grow coffee, potatoes, fibre, pork—almost anything. If each man had 100 acres under cultivation, every year each settler should be able to send to the coast at least 200 tons of produce; this would make a total of 20,000 tons of freight for the railway every year, not to speak of fares, provisions, &c., extra. There is room in this country for hundreds of white settlers.

"If men were encouraged to go in for stock raising, we would see train loads of frozen mutton, wool, hides, tallow, live sheep and cattle going to the coast in a very few years.

"Parts of East Africa are equal to, if not better than the best parts of Brazil or Argentine. Hundreds of Britishers go to these countries every year and have to live under a foreign flag. If the same men knew of this country they would only too gladly come here instead.

"If the Government advertise East Africa from end to end of the Empire, and only state the truth as to what the land will do, hundreds of our finest frontiers-men and pioneers from Scotland, America and the Colonies will flock to East Africa, and I hope in a few years will make this a second Australia.

"Should any reader wish to learn more about British East Africa, the land laws, elevation of the country above sea level, &c., I am sure that Sir Charles Eliot, His Majesty's Commissioner of British East Africa, would only be too pleased to supply any information he may require."

TRADE PROSPECTS IN THE SOUTHERN STATES OF AMERICA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a report drawn up by Mr. Seymour Bell, British Commercial Agent in the United States, relative to trade prospects in the Southern States, from which the following extracts have been made:—

“A few years ago, when the South was recovering from the effects of the Civil War, there was only a limited amount of business to be done, but things are very different now. The Southern States are infinitely more prosperous than they were even five years ago. There is more money in circulation, and they have entered upon a term of prosperity the like of which they have not known since the war. The people, therefore, are more able and more willing to purchase luxuries and better goods than they were a few years ago.

“Notwithstanding this, one cannot but be struck with the fact that in New Orleans, and, indeed, in all the places I visited, commercial travellers from the United Kingdom are very seldom seen. Nearly all the merchants with whom I talked told me the same thing. French and German travellers come round regularly, but manufacturers and shippers in Great Britain appear to think it is not worth while to send representatives. This, in my opinion, is a great mistake. . . .

“It may, perhaps, be thought that the trade in one single line will not prove sufficient to pay expenses of travellers. In that case, let the travellers come out with more lines than one, so that the expenses may be divided. There is trade to be done. . . .

“It is useless for British shippers to depend upon circulars and price lists to increase their trade. As likely as not they will be thrown into the waste paper basket as soon as received without even being looked at. . . .

“If it were possible to establish a central distributing house in New Orleans, or some other port on the Gulf where British steamers call regularly, it would, in my opinion, prove highly successful. It would be necessary to have a large supply of samples of different lines of goods which travellers could take with them on their rounds. It would resolve itself, in fact, into a sort of British commercial museum where prospective buyers could go and inspect the goods preparatory to ordering. Travellers would, of course, be necessary in order to reach buyers in the interior. They would have to be in a position to quote prices delivered to buyer, including all expenses, and the central house would have to see to getting the goods through the Custom-house and despatched to the buyer with the least possible delay.”

Birmingham, Ala.—With regard to this town, which is the principal one of the Southern iron and coal industry and an

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important distributing centre for all classes of goods, and has a population in and around it of nearly 100,000, Mr. Bell writes :—

“Direct trade between Birmingham and the United Kingdom appears to be practically nil. British commercial travellers rarely visit the place, and, in consequence, goods which at one time had a sale have now been replaced by others.

“There is a larger trade to be done in dry goods than in any other line, but almost everything comes through New York. The chief dry goods in demand are : Dress goods, laces, linens, linings, certain braids and small wares. The demand is increasing, and there is a better grade of goods asked for than formerly.

“In hardware, practically the only articles supplied by British manufacturers are pocket knives, only of the best quality. At one time English anvils had a good sale, but this trade has fallen off almost completely. Tools, which formerly came from the United Kingdom, are now supplied chiefly by the New England States.

“The principal articles in which British manufacturers might increase their trade are : Dry goods and hardware, as above, drugs and fancy groceries.”

Montgomery, Ala.—This city, which is the capital of the State of Alabama, with a population of over 30,000, is another important distributing centre. Mr. Bell writes as follows with regard to possible openings for trade there :—

“The principal articles in which business may be done are : Chemicals, drugs, dry goods, fancy groceries, and liquors.

“One of the largest wholesale grocers and liquor dealers informs me that his firm is prepared to accept an agency for the sale of a good brand of Scotch whisky. Orders would be given for 20 or 25 cases at a time to commence with, and he considered they could easily dispose of some hundreds of cases each year. They would also like to be put in communication with wine exporters, also shippers of jams, sardines, peas, and such other groceries as are usually sent to this country.

“I shall be glad to supply the name of this firm to those who may desire it if they will communicate with me.

“Most of the trade is at present done through New York, and commercial travellers from the United Kingdom appear to be quite unknown.

“In dry goods the chief business is done in linens, dress goods, laces, and linings, but doubtless the list might be considerably extended were the buyer given an opportunity of inspecting samples.

“As far as drugs and chemicals are concerned, it is considered that the business is too small to import direct, consequently all orders go to New York and New Orleans. I see no reason why a direct business should not be done by enterprising houses shipping

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to several customers on one bill of lading, and arranging for distribution of the goods on arrival.

"The trade in Montgomery has largely increased in recent years, and all manufacturing enterprises appear to be successful and extending their business."

Pensacola.—Pensacola, with a population of 20,000, is likely to become an important port in the near future. After giving some particulars as to the improved harbour accommodation, &c., Mr. Bell goes on to say:—

"The trade of the port, therefore, has every prospect of growing rapidly, and it would be as well for British shippers who are anxious to increase their trade to prepare for this time.

"At present there is only a limited trade to be done in certain dry goods, hardware, fancy groceries, and liquors. . . .

"The manufacture of fertiliser is a leading industry throughout the territory, which may be reached through Pensacola. The raw materials used are mainly phosphate, kainite, pyrites, and potash salts, most of which are imported. . . .

"Pensacola is worthy of attention from British shipowners, on account of the facilities for loading and discharging, and also as a convenient coaling station for steamers trading in the Gulf."

Mobile, Ala.—As regards Mobile, which is a town of about 40,000 inhabitants, Mr. Bell states that the European imports consist chiefly of minerals, chemicals, drugs and dry goods. The dry goods most in demand are linens, laces, braids, handkerchiefs, embroideries, and nettings (mosquito curtains). The importations of hardware were at one time very much greater, but now hardly anything but goods of domestic manufacture are sold. The articles most likely to be able to compete are guns, enamelled ware, cutlery and anvils.

New Orleans.—"Considering that New Orleans is the principal market for some 10,000,000 people, more or less prosperous, the direct importations from foreign countries are," says Mr. Bell, "surprisingly small."

"The chief articles handled by the wholesale hardware houses that might be imported are the following: Filter press cloths, cotton waste, cotton duck, cement, tools, enamelled ware, anchors, chains, sickles, sheathing felt for vessels, and oakum.

"There is, of course, a good trade to be done in bags and bagging, and a fair trade in binding twine, crude india-rubber, earthen and china ware, matting and wines. . . .

"The largest dry goods house in New Orleans buys largely European goods. The following is a list of the principal articles they handle: white goods, cretonnes, carpets, linoleum, hosiery, mosquito curtains, linens, laces, silks, fine handkerchiefs, lace curtains, percales, lawns, poplins, organdies, fine ginghams, gloves,

Trade Prospects in the Southern States of America.

pine apple tissue, embroidered swisses, linen suitings, toys, china, leather goods, and fancy baskets.

"In order to show how much British commercial travellers are missed, I may mention a case that was brought to my notice. The manager of one of the largest wholesale hardware houses in New Orleans asked me for the name of the leading hardware paper in England. I gave him the information, and, when I returned to Chicago, sent him a copy which I happened to have. He wrote to me by return, thanking me for the paper. He informed me that it contained just what he wanted, and that he was writing to several of the firms advertising goods he required."

Houston, Texas.—This town occupies an important position as a distributing centre, and has a population of over 60,000. After giving a description of the manufacture of paper from yellow pine shavings by a local company, Mr. Bell states that in the manufacture of this paper the soda process is employed. It is declared by the management that for shavings this process is preferable to the sulphite, which is used in the production of pulp from hemlock and spruce. The chemicals required in the manufacture have to be imported into the State. As the soda ash used comes either from New York or abroad, there ought to be an opening at an early date for an increased trade in this article with the United Kingdom.

Galveston.—With regard to the imports into Galveston from foreign countries, Mr. Bell writes:—"The following goods arrived in a steamer from Antwerp while I was in Galveston, which gives a good idea of the class of goods for which there is a sale—Crockery, wines, railway material, silks, cement, firebricks, and drugs.

"There is a good demand for imported crockery in the South. In all the places I visited, and especially in New Orleans, there were stores stocked with articles of French manufacture. Ornaments, either manufactured in France or of French design, were seen everywhere, and many of them were high-priced. A certain amount of table ware, generally of the cheaper quality, had British marks. I am certainly of opinion that an increased trade might be done in these articles with the United Kingdom were the business to be pushed harder."

SILK INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a report drawn up by Mr. Seymour Bell, British Commercial Agent in the United States, based on particulars published in the New York "Tribune" of 18th April last. According to this report practically all the raw silk used by American manufacturers at the present time is imported. The importation of raw silk for the eight months ending with February of this year amounted to 37,000,000 dols., as against 27,000,000 dols. for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Measured by quantity, as distinguished from value, the figures for the eight months ended with February, 1903, amounted to 10,000,000 lbs., against less than 9,000,000 for the eight months ended with February, 1902, and less than 5,000,000 for the eight months ended with February, 1901. Meantime the importations of manufactured silk have also increased, the figures for the eight months ended with February, 1903, being valued at over 25,000,000 dols., as against less than 23,000,000 dols. in the preceding eight months period, and 18,000,000 dols. in the eight months ended with February, 1901.

The growth in the production of silk manufactures in the United States, a production which is wholly from imported material, much of which is brought from the other side of the globe, is rapid and interesting. In 1870 importations of raw silk were only 500,000 lbs.; in 1880, 2,500,000; in 1890, 7,500,000; in 1900, 13,000,000; and in 1903 seem likely to be 16,000,000 lbs. The value of the raw silk imported in 1897 was 19,000,000 dols.; in 1899, 32,000,000 dols.; in 1900, 45,000,000 dols., and in the present fiscal year seems likely to be 50,000,000 dols. From the silk thus imported the silk manufacturing establishments of the United States produced in the year 1900 silk goods valued at over 100,000,000 dols.; and in view of the fact that the raw silk importations of the present fiscal year materially exceed those of 1900 or 1899, it seems probable that the value of the silk manufactures of the country in the present year will materially exceed those of 1900. The value of the product of the silk manufacturing establishments of the country grew from 12,000,000 dols. in 1870 to 41,000,000 dols. in 1880, 87,000,000 dols. in 1890, and 107,000,000 dols. in 1900, and for the present year the total product will probably materially exceed that of 1900. Nevertheless, the importations of silk manufactures are greater in value in the present year than for many years. For the eight months ended with February, the total value of silk manufactures imported was 25,000,000 dols., an increase of 7,000,000 dols. over the figures of a like period two years earlier. The following table shows the number of establishments, value of product, and wages paid in the silk manufacturing industry of the United States from 1870 to 1900:—

Silk Industry in the United States.

Year.	Establishments.	Value of Product.	Wages Paid.
		Dollars.	Dollars.
1870	86	12,210,662	1,942,286
1880	382	41,033,045	9,146,705
1890	472	87,298,454	17,762,441
1900	483	107,256,258	20,982,194

The British Commercial Agent also sends an extract from a recently published New Orleans paper to the effect that the Agricultural Department has commenced the despatch of silk-worm eggs, each parcel being tested according to the Pasteur method, to persons in the south who have expressed a desire to take up silk culture.

The Agricultural Department has received assurances that if the silk can be grown in sufficient quantities, private enterprises will erect the mills for its reeling, and, in the meantime, the Government will continue to send out the eggs and will buy and reel the silk until the culture is in a measure established.

If the conditional promises are not carried out, a colony of the North Italy silk culturists will be established, and complete instructions will be given to every person interested in the industry.

This should result in employment in some branch of the industry for all the children of the poorer families, as is the case in Northern Italy.

TRANSIT TRADE OF INDO-CHINA.

In a despatch recently received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Pakhoi, it is stated that in view of the various French schemes for the exploitation of Yünnan and Kuanghsi, the growth of the transit trade of Indo-China is of special interest. Its total value in 1901 amounted to 1,339,000*l.*, of which 1,239,000*l.* represented trade with Yünnan, an advance of some 50 per cent. on 1900, the balance being mostly with Battambang (in Siam). The business was almost entirely with Hong-Kong, which sent goods to the value of 911,000*l.*, and received 325,000*l.* The chief articles imported were yarn, 620,000*l.* (from India and Japan in about equal quantities), textiles 124,000*l.*, and Chinese tobacco 100,000*l.*, while the exports consisted almost entirely of tin 282,000*l.*, and tea nearly 16,000*l.* The direct trade with Europe was very small, amounting to only 2,000*l.* in value, but an attempt is now being made to divert the tin from Hong-Kong and ship it direct to France, and should this succeed the French steamers from Indo-China will obtain some 3,000 tons of freight a year at the expense of the Hong-Kong lines.

Transit Trade of Indo-China.

As will be observed from the above figures, cotton yarn represents more than half the trade with Yunnan. At present all this comes from abroad, but Indo-China, producing its own raw material and favoured by its proximity to the place of consumption, may in the near future become a serious competitor. Tonquin has now two mills in operation and another about to start, numbering in all 50,000 spindles capable of turning out 2,500 tons of yarn a year, which is about two-thirds of the local consumption. The production of these mills reduced the import of yarn (mostly No. 20) for the local market by some 300,000*l.* in 1901, and with the development of the industry that is now going on the home demand will probably soon be more than satisfied, when will arise a need for new outlets, which will no doubt be sought in the neighbouring provinces of China. In order to satisfy local requirements, and also to supply the Yunnan market, about three times the present number of spindles would be required.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 4th April last, containing a By-law issued by the Commonwealth Department of Trade and Customs on 26th March, 1903, which provides for the free importation into the Commonwealth of certain specified minor articles for use in the manufacture of apparel, bellows, blinds, boots and shoes, fishing rods, furniture, harness and saddlery, hats, agricultural implements, umbrellas, vehicles and other miscellaneous articles within the Commonwealth.

The present By-law is in substitution of certain by-laws relating to "minor articles," for which notices were published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 6th February, 1902 (p. 257), and 29th May, 1902 (p. 401).

The amended list of "minor articles" referred to in the By-law under notice, which is in considerable detail, may be seen by persons interested on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

TRANSVAAL.

With reference to the notice published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 7th May last relating to the suspension, as from 24th April, 1903, of the duties on all articles (except spirits, and flour or wheaten meal, including pollard, manufactured from other than South African wheat), the produce, growth, or manufacture of British South Africa on importation into the Transvaal, the Board of Trade have now received a copy of a Government Notice (No. 135 of 1903), issued by the Transvaal Director of Customs on the 15th April last, notifying that the above suspension will not apply unless the person claiming the same shall, on importation and due entry into the Colony, produce to the proper officers of Customs, at their discretion :—

(a) A signed statement, in writing, on the invoice, or otherwise, as to the origin of the goods.

(b) A certificate of origin, duly signed before a Justice of the Peace, Resident Magistrate, or Officer of Customs.

(c) Such other or further evidence as such officers of Customs may require.

Persons forwarding such articles by post should clearly state on the form or label attached to the parcel that they are the growth, produce or manufacture of British South Africa, otherwise it will be assumed that they are not.

CEYLON.

With reference to a notice in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 29th January, 1903, relating to proposed changes in the Customs Tariff of Ceylon, the Board of Trade have now received a copy of the "Ceylon Government Gazette" for 24th April last, which contains the "Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1903" (No. 2 of 1903), assented to by the Governor on 24th March, 1903, which amends the Law relating to the general Customs regulations, and the duties leviable on articles imported into Ceylon.

The present Ordinance will come into operation at such a time as the Governor shall notify by Proclamation in the "Government Gazette." The following are the principal alterations which will be effected in the duties on articles imported into the island :—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Articles.	Import Duties.	
	Old Rates.	New Rates.
Arrowroot Per cwt.	Rs. Cts. Free	Rs. Cts. 0 35
Brass—		
Nails "	3 00	5 00
Blocks, bars and tubes "	5 00	3 00
Copper—		
Sheets and ingots "	3 00	Free
Wire and tubes "	5 00	3 00
Iron—		
Galvanised, viz., guttering, nails, piping, ridging, rivets, sheets, and sheets corrugated, spouting, strapping, screws, tiles, washers, wire Per ton	15 00 (a)	—
Nails and tacks of sorts and rivets Per cwt.	0 63	—
Iron and steel—		
Galvanised goods of all description, including tin tacks Per cwt.	—	0 75
Not galvanised; rails, chains, wire, rivets, screws, nails, tacks, washers, bolts, and nuts Per cwt.	—	0 63
Perfumery or spirits imported as perfumery {	If as spirits, Rs. 7 per gall.; otherwise 5½% <i>ad val.</i>	} Rs. 7 per gall. 35 cts. per cwt.
Tapioca	5½% <i>ad val.</i>	
Advertising matter, including printed almanacs, pocket books, diaries, ash trays, calendars, show cards, show plates and frames, call bells, paper knives, and blotting pads	5½% "	Free
Drawings and drawing materials	Free	—
Artist's materials for drawing and painting ...	—	Free
NOTE.—Presumably "drawings" are now liable to the unenumerated rate of 5½% <i>ad val.</i>		
Liquid fuel, the product of petroleum, with a flashing point—		
Not under 200° F.	Free	—
" 150° F. (Abel's close test) ...	—	Free
Machinery—		
"Motor cars not used for traction" are specially excluded from the free list by the present Ordinance, and would pay, presumably, as heretofore, 5½% <i>ad val.</i>		
Memorial tablets of whatever material ...	Stone, free; other 5½% <i>ad val.</i>	Free
Lead wire	5½% <i>ad val.</i>	"

(a) Or 75 cents per cwt.

The above Ordinance further provides that the Collector of Customs may register articles exported from the island, such as watches and guns, which in his judgment are capable of identification, and articles so registered may be admitted free of duty upon re-importation into the island.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ST. LUCIA.

With reference to a notice published on p. 302 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 13th November, 1902, the Board have now received a copy of a further Order-in-Council, dated 3rd April, 1903, rescinding the Order-in-Council of the 20th October, 1902, there referred to, prohibiting the importation of all cattle, in consequence of the existence of anthrax, from St. Vincent into the Colony of St. Lucia.

**Prohibition of
the Importation
of Cattle from
St. Vincent
Removed.**

GERMANY.

According to a recent order of the Hamburg Customs Authorities, copy of which has been received at the Board of Trade through the Foreign Office, fruit knives with stone-ware handles, being goods of polished brass made up with stoneware, are liable on importation into the German Customs Union *via* Hamburg to a duty of 30 marks per 100 kilogs. (15s. 3d. per cwt.), under No. 19d. 2 of the Customs Tariff.

**Classification of
Fruit Knives
with Stone-ware
Handles.**

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 16th May contains a Royal Order declaring 36·10 per cent. to have been the average rate of exchange (premium of exchange on Paris) during the first fortnight of the present month, and that the corresponding reduction in the rate of Customs duty payable in gold during the second fortnight of this month, will be 27 per cent.

**Rate of Exchange
for the
Adjustment of
Customs Duties
payable in Gold.**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The following is a list of some Decisions affecting the application of the Customs Tariff of the United States, which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington for the guidance of United States Customs officers and others:—

**Customs
Decisions.** *Artificial silk braids*, being made from imitation silk, are dutiable under paragraph 390 of the Tariff at the rate of 60 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Needle threaders.—So-called needle threaders consisting of thin steel implements about one and one-fourth inches in length and about one twenty-fourth of an inch wide, with a hook at each end, designed to be used to fasten the thread into the eye of sewing and embroidery needles in Swiss embroidery machines, are dutiable as manufactures of metal at 45 per cent. *ad valorem*, under paragraph 193 of the Tariff.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—continued.

Linen bobbins consisting of braided linen fillets about one-eighth of an inch wide and 3 yards long, put up in small bundles, and commercially known as "tapes," are properly dutiable at the rate of 45 per cent. *ad valorem* under the provisions of paragraph 320 of the Tariff.

Fur rugs partly of wool.—Wolf-skin fur rugs, with lining and border composed of woollen cloth, the fur being the component material of chief value, are dutiable under paragraph 450 of the Tariff, covering manufactures of fur or of which fur "is the component material of *chief value*," and not under the provision in paragraph 366 for "all manufactures of every description made wholly or in part of wool," or under that in paragraph 382 for "rugs for floors . . . and other portions of carpets or carpeting made wholly or in part of wool."

Thermometers of opal glass and of blown glass.—Thermometers composed of blown or opal glass and other materials, the blown or opal glass being the component material of chief value, are not dutiable under the provision in paragraph 100 of the Tariff for "opal and other blown glassware," but are dutiable under paragraph 112 as "manufactures of which glass is the component material of chief value, not specially provided for,"—duty, 45 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Poultry, dead, not dressed, is dutiable, by assimilation, as dressed poultry, at 5 cents per pound.

Vellum and parchment.—The provision in paragraph 634 of the Tariff, exempting from duty "parchment and vellum," is not limited to such as is to be used for manuscripts and similar purposes, but includes the qualities used for various other purposes, as for binding books, covering bottle stoppers, &c.

Lenses of glass.—Unmounted single lenses of glass, used chiefly in bicycle lanterns, are not projecting lenses within the purview of paragraph 111 of the Tariff. They are consequently dutiable at the rates fixed by paragraph 109, according to whether their edges are ground or unground.

Nickel-plated zinc sheets are not dutiable as nickel in sheets, but as articles composed of metal, at the rate of 45 per cent. *ad valorem*, under paragraph 193 of the Tariff.

Tonnage tax is not to be levied on vessels employed in repairing or laying telegraph cables and not engaged in the foreign-carrying trade.

Limes in brine are dutiable at 1 cent per pound under paragraph 266 of the Tariff, providing, among other things, for "limes," without qualification, and are not dutiable at 40 per cent. *ad valorem* as prepared vegetables or pickles, under paragraph 241, nor free as fruits in brine, under paragraph 559. In assessing the

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

specific duty per pound no allowance can be made for the weight of the brine in which the limes are imported, whether absorbed by the fruit or surrounding it.

Bibulous paper bound in books is dutiable under paragraph 403 of the Tariff, at the rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. The provision of paragraph 397 covering bibulous paper in reams or any other form covers only such paper while still retaining its character as paper in the form of reams, sheets, &c., and does not cover the same when it has been made into books.

Bar iron—muck bars.—Iron in the form of bars and known as muck bars is dutiable under paragraph 123 of the Tariff, as bar iron, and is not dutiable as iron in "forms less finished than iron in bars and more advanced than pig-iron," under paragraph 124.

Burr-stones in a rough-quarried condition, approximating to an irregular circular form, with a hole drilled in the centre, and encircled by an iron band, are free of duty as "burr-stones in blocks, rough or unmanufactured," under paragraph 671 of the Tariff.

Cotton braids.—Fillets or narrow bands about three-eighths of an inch wide and several yards in length, composed of cotton yarns braided upon braiding machines, and put up on spools and used in pianoforte actions, are properly dutiable as braids, at the rate of 60 per cent. *ad valorem*, under the provisions of paragraph 339 of the Tariff.

Tea coverings.—Certain tin canisters, which can be entirely lifted from their wooden containers, and which have square tops opening on hinges, or desk-shaped tops, after the style of a roll-top desk, are held to be subject to additional duty under Section 19 of the "Customs Administrative Act, 1890." The section in question provides that "if there be used for covering or holding "imported merchandise, whether dutiable or free, any unusual "article or form designed for use otherwise than in the *bona fide* "transportation of such merchandise to the United States, "additional duty shall be levied and collected upon such material "or article at the rate to which the same would be subject if "separately imported."

In virtue of a recent Act of the United States Congress, the port of Niagara Falls, in the State of New York, has had extended to it the privileges of ports open for the immediate transportation, without appraisement, of merchandise in transit to other ports.

"Immediate
Transportation"
Port.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

VENEZUELA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the export duty of eight bolivars on each head of cattle, cows excepted, which was imposed by a Decree of 26th November, 1901, has been abolished by a Presidential Decree of the 13th April.

**Abolition of
Export Duty on
Cattle.**

The same despatch also states that the Venezuelan Minister of Finance has announced the abolition, from 15th April, of the import duty of 5 cents per kilog. on Roman cement.

**Abolition of
Import Duty on
Roman Cement.**

COSTA RICA.

The United States "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports" for the 18th April states that, by a Costa Rican Decree of 21st March, crude petroleum may be imported into the Republic free of duty.

**Free Importation
of Crude
Petroleum.**

NICARAGUA.

The United States "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports" for the 15th April, 1903, contain a notification to the effect that by a Presidential Decree of 24th February, the Nicaraguan import duties on raw materials for the manufacture of common, or laundry, soap are abolished.

**Abolition of
Import Duties
on Materials for
Common Soap.**

JAPAN.

The following is the substance of some Decisions affecting the application of the Japanese Customs Tariff, which were published in the "Japan Weekly Mail" of the 4th April:—

**Customs
Decisions.**

Alpaca tissues, even if the web of the material is composed of cotton, are dutiable under No. 324 of the Tariff at the "Conventional" rate of 0.075 yen (1.84d.) per square yard.

Thin worsted cloths to be used as overcoatings for Japanese women, and *tissues woven of wool and mohair yarns*, are dutiable as woollen cloths under No. 337 of the Tariff at the "Conventional" rate of 0.093 yen (2.28d.) per square yard.

So-called "serges," woven of worsted yarns, are not to be classed as serges under No. 335 of the Tariff, but are to be treated as worsted coatings and charged with duty under No. 337 at the "Conventional" rate of 0.093 yen (2.28d.) per square yard.

Packing-paper, lined with a thin linen cloth, is dutiable at the "Conventional" rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* under the Commercial Treaty between Japan and Germany.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

RUSSIA.

With reference to the notice which appeared on p. 267 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th February last, **Steamers to the Persian Gulf.** information has since been received that the contract for the Persian Gulf line between the Imperial Government and the Russian Steam Navigation Company has been concluded, an annual subsidy for ten years of 200,000 roubles being promised in consideration of four sailings per annum, and the Company's choice of a representative in the Gulf to be subject to the Government's approval.

The following translation of an extract from the "Odessk Listok" of 25th April/8th May relative to the new line has been received:—

"The Administration of the Russian Steam Navigation Company has determined to furnish two special ocean steamers for the new Persian Line, which are to be ordered shortly. The Administration is already in negotiation with Russian shipbuilding yards with reference to the building of the two new steamers. Special agencies and warehouses of the Russian Company are to be established in all Persian ports, with a staff of clerks of Russian nationality especially appointed for Persia. A complete re-organisation of the regular voyages to the Persian Gulf will be arranged in the course of the present year."

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the 28th April/11th May reports that, according to the "Nouveau Temps," **Reduction in Freights to Far East.** it has been considered necessary to reduce, in a short time, the freights of Russian steamships between Odessa and the ports of the Far East for all Russian produce, in order that the latter may find an outlet in China and Japan.

FRANCE—CANADA.

With reference to the notice which appeared on p. 594 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th March last, **Direct Steamship Service between France and Canada.** it may be noted that, according to a despatch received through the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Havre, the steamers of the new line under the Russian flag from La Rochelle-Pallice to Canada will, on the return voyage, call at Havre.

Arrangements have also been made by the Furness line for four British steamers to come in the summer months from Havre to Halifax, with a view to ascertaining whether there is sufficient trade to make it worth while to continue the service. The first departure was to take place from Halifax on 9th May.

Shipping and Transport.

PORTUGAL.

The "Diario do Governo" of 13th May contains a copy of the contract, dated 10th January last, made between the Government and the Administrators of the "Empresa Nacional de Navegação a Vapor" for Portuguese Africa, for a monthly service of steamers between Lisbon and Mozambique, calling at Leixões, St. Thomé, Loanda, Lourenço Marques, and Beira, for six years, at a subsidy of 12,000 milreis, or about 2,100*l.*, for each of the first 12 round voyages; 10,000 milreis, or about 1,837*l.* 10*s.*, for each of the second 12 round voyages; 8,000 milreis, or about 1,575*l.*, for each of the third 12 round voyages; 6,000 milreis, or about 1,050*l.*, for each of the fourth 12 round voyages; and of 5,000 milreis, or about 918*l.* 15*s.*, for each of the 24 remaining round voyages, subject to fixed rates of freight and passage, and to other conditions which are given in the "Diario," including a time limit of 75 days maximum for the round voyage, including all delays between Lisbon and Mozambique, and 28 days for the voyage from Lisbon to Lourenço Marques and *vice versd.*

COLOMBIA.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from the British Legation at Bogota, calling attention to a Decree of the Colombian Government (No. 287 of 1903), in which the right is claimed to inspect and control the tariffs of all river navigation, railways; and in general all matters of river and land transport, within the territory of the Republic.

A translation of the Decree in question may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

MINERALS, METALS, AND MACHINERY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

A formal investigation was held at Edinburgh on the 22nd and 23rd April into the circumstances attending the explosion of a boiler which occurred on the 28th January last at the Bonnyrigg carpet factory, owned by Messrs. Widnell and Stewart, Ltd., Lasswade.

The Commissioners found that the explosion was caused by the accumulation of steam in the jacket of the boiler and a consequent increase of pressure beyond what the boiler was able to stand; the casting of the tank was defective, and it had never been tested to

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

ascertain its safe working pressure; the pan should have been fitted with a reducing valve having regard to the fact that steam was supplied direct from the main boilers, a safety valve also would have been useful as an additional precaution.

The owners, Messrs. Henry Widnell and Stewart, Ltd., were found in default and ordered to pay the sum of 40*l.* towards the costs of the investigation.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

The following table, based on returns published in the "Queensland Government Mining Journal" of 14th March, shows the quantity and value of minerals produced in Queensland during the year 1902. Figures for 1901 are added for purposes of comparison:—

	1901.		1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Fine ozs.	£	Fine ozs.	£
Gold	598,382	2,541,892	640,463	2,720,639
	Ozs.		Ozs.	
Silver	571,561	62,241	701,312	70,145
	Tons.		Tons.	
Copper	3,061	194,227	3,784	189,200
Coal	539,472	189,877	501,531	172,286
Tin	1,661	93,723	2,085	116,171
Manganese	218	795	4,600	16,989
Opal	—	7,400	—	7,000
Molybdenite, bismuth and wolfram..	26	1,609	41	5,502
Gems	—	6,000	—	5,000
Lime	6,514	4,901	4,743	3,672
Lead	561	6,993	267	2,706
Wolfram	72	1,145	55	1,167
Bismuth	20	3,684	1	123
Total value ... £	—	3,114,702	—	3,310,600

SPAIN.

H.M. Consul at Bilbao reports that, according to official returns, the following quantities of iron ore were raised in Bilbao during 1902:—

	Quantity.
	Tons.
Red	4,182,500
Carbonate	442,237
"Campanil"	57,081
Total	4,681,818

*Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.***SPAIN**—*continued.*

The iron ore exported from Bilbao to various countries during the last three years was as follows:—

Exports of Iron Ore from Bilbao.

Destination.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	3,101,563	2,281,198	2,996,908
Netherlands	703,766	651,473	672,368
Germany	66,401	636,509	57,688
Belgium	207,925	193,372	224,570
France	200,222	196,072	199,305
United States	49,445	90,565	45,998
Other countries	—	7,512	14
Total	4,329,322	4,056,701	4,196,851

NOTE.—Nearly all the ore sent to the Netherlands and a part of that shipped to Belgium is destined for consumption in Germany.

(*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,964.*)

ROUMANIA.

A despatch dated 30th April has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Bucharest, reporting statements made by the Roumanian Finance Minister to the special correspondent of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" on the subject of the petroleum industry of Roumania, from which it appears that foreign capitalists desirous of investing money in Roumania will be assisted and advised by the Roumanian Government.

In course of the interview referred to, the Finance Minister stated that a pipe-line would be constructed from the petroleum fields to the ports of Cernavoda and Constantza, for the preliminary study of which a sum of 500,000 francs has been voted. The construction of the pipe-line itself will cost 10,000,000 francs. Naturally, it is only the State that can bear the cost, because for several years the expenses will not be covered, not to mention the paying off of the interest on the sum expended. This pipe-line, the Minister added, will much enhance the value of the future petroleum industry of Roumania. Up to the present, he said, the difficulties of transport stand in the way of the expansion of the petroleum trade: once these are removed, there is no doubt that Roumanian petroleum will find a considerable sale. It is stated to contain more benzine than the American, and to possess a fine colour and greater lighting power than the Russian petroleum.

*Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.***UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

The British Vice-Consul at Portland, Maine, reports that a company is establishing a new business with a product which is its exclusive property, made by a process protected by patent rights. This product is a pure prepared white lime, and to produce it the company has expended thousands of dollars in fitting up a mill at Rockland and another in New York to give it final preparation for the market.

**A New Product
—Prepared
White Lime.**

The lime is taken directly from the kiln to the mill where it is hydrated by the patent process. It comes out of the mill in the form of a dry white powder, which is put into bags and sent to the market in that form. Ordinary lime cannot be hurried in any of its processes, but the new product is expedition itself, and permits many combinations to meet different needs. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,967.*)

COLOMBIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a despatch from H.M. Acting Chargé d'Affaires at Bogotá, enclosing a copy and translation of the form and conditions for tenders for the lease of the Muzo and Coscuez emerald mines. The lease is to be for a period of ten years, at an upset price of 6,000*l.* per month, and the tenders will be opened in Bogotá on the 31st December next. A translation of the form of conditions, as well as a pamphlet in the original Spanish descriptive of the mines received from the Consul for the Republic of Colombia in London, may be consulted at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

YARNS AND TEXTILES.**RUSSIA.**

According to a report by Mr. Henry Cooke, the British Commercial Agent in Russia, the official "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" (St. Petersburg) of 13th/26th April, 1903, quoting from the "Sibirskaja Jizn," states that the Omsk Town Council lately discussed the question of the sale to twelve Moscow textile manufacturing firms of a site for the erection of wholesale depôt establishments for textile goods. Among the firms mentioned are those of Messrs. Savva Morozoff, Razorenoff Brothers, Nosoff Brothers, Emile Zindel, and others.

**Moscow Textile
Manufacturers
and the Siberian
Market.**

Yarns and Textiles.

The "Commercial and Industrial Gazette," quoting details with reference to the plot selected, adds: "To what extent the realisation of the project of erecting wholesale depôts of textile goods at Omsk will influence the turnover of Irbit Fair the future will show. It is impossible, however, not to note that the initiative of the Moscow manufacturers in this question is a further proof of the introduction into Siberia, under the influence of the railway, of new trade conditions generally."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

H.M. Consul at Chicago, in his recent report to the Foreign Office, states that the value of the wholesale dry goods business of that city during the year 1902 is estimated at 34,606,000*l.*, an increase over the previous year of 3,000,000*l.* The direct importations were valued at 1,680,207*l.*, although this does not by any means represent the imported goods sold by the retailers in Chicago and district.

The direct imports of dry goods have shown a steady increase for the last four years, as follows:—

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£
Total imports	1,007,506	1,092,577	1,306,340	1,680,207
Imports from United Kingdom	393,249	477,863	441,281	456,847

From these figures it will be seen that British trade is at a standstill, while the imports from other European countries have advanced, and while in 1900 44 per cent. of the direct imports to Chicago were British, in 1902 this percentage had fallen to 28 per cent.

One great feature, which should have helped trade with the United Kingdom, was the demand for better goods.

Silks furnished a large gain in sales, 25 per cent. increase over 1901, and prices were higher at the end of the year. Novelty in silks is the great demand.

Cotton and woollen goods increased slightly in sales, but at the end of the year manufacturers were behind with orders on plain goods.

Prints increased considerably, and prices are firm and stocks low.

Linens made a gain of about 15 per cent. and bleached damasks were short in supply. These damasks generally are imported from Germany, and there is a great demand for them in the country in place of linen tablecloths and napkins. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,952.)

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 16th May were as follow :—

Corn Prices.

Wheat	...	...	...	...	27s. 9d.
Barley	...	...	...	...	22s. 5d.
Oats	...	...	...	...	18s. 4d.

For further particulars see p. 376.

A statement is published on p. 377, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 16th May, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

On pp. 348-9 will be found an article on "Agriculture in British East Africa" in which, referring to the high lands, it is stated that the country is a healthy one with a rich soil which, if worked scientifically by white men, would produce immense quantities of coffee, cotton, flax, and other fibres, grain, clover seeds, potatoes, &c. Large tracts, it is said, are fit for sheep breeding and other stock raising. Labour is very cheap, and land can be bought freehold for 2s. 8d. per acre. The writer points out that with plenty of settlers in the country a market could easily be opened up with South Africa and India for beef, mutton and tallow, while coffee, cotton, wool, &c., would always find the home markets.

GERMANY.

According to statistics published in the "Reichsanzeiger," the quantity of raw sugar produced in Germany during the period from 1st August to 30th April last, being the first nine months of the 1902-3 sugar campaign, was 1,493,721 metric tons as compared with 2,005,929 metric tons produced during the corresponding period of the previous sugar campaign. The quantity of refined sugar produced increased from 1,045,033 metric tons during the period, August, 1901 to April, 1902, to 1,073,506 metric tons during the period, August, 1902 to April, 1903. The total sugar output in Germany during the period from 1st August, 1902, to 30th April, 1903, reduced to terms of raw sugar, amounted to 1,705,604 metric tons, as compared with 2,235,407 metric tons in the previous campaign.

NOTE.—Metric ton = 1,000 kilogs. = 2,204 lbs. avoirdupois.

Agriculture.

TUNIS.

A writer in the "Dépêche Coloniale" who is stated to be well acquainted with Tunis, calls attention to the advantages offered by that country and also by Southern Algeria as cotton-producing centres.

The oases which the Public Works Department of Tunis have created, by means of artesian wells, in the south of the Regency have proved extremely fertile and yielded good returns.

The writer of the article considers that these oases, with palms and other trees to shelter the cotton from the winds should serve excellently the purpose of the French Colonial Cotton Association, and suggests that the Association should come to some arrangement with the Tunisian Departments of Works and Agriculture.

In support of this suggestion, the writer quotes from a report made to the Tunisian Department of Agriculture in March, 1900, to the effect that samples of cotton had been collected at El Oudiane, El Hamma, and Nefta, and, moreover, that the better varieties grown at Gabès had been valued by Havre brokers at 50 frs. per 50 kilogs. for Peruvian, ordinary to irregular.

The expenses of transport per metric ton are estimated as follows :—

	Fra.
Tozeur to Gafza (by cart)	100
Gafza to Sfax (rail)	32
Sfax to Marseilles	25

A ready sale is stated to be awaiting the product in the French market.

Experiments should be made on at least 10 hectares in order to produce two tons for the market.

The same experiments can be usefully carried out at Djerba and Zarzis.

ARGENTINA.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Legation at Buenos Ayres, calling attention to a measure recently passed by the Government of Tucuman, in which province almost all the sugar produced in Argentina is grown, imposing a new tax on sugar with a view to limit the quantity produced, and partly to provide a fund to cover the expenses of irrigation.

It is sought to attain the former object by fixing the total production of the current year at 84,000 tons, by allotting to each of the 21 sugar-making establishments in the province its share of the aggregate production, and by imposing a tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per kilog. upon the quantity produced not exceeding the maximum so fixed, and a tax of 40 cents per kilog. upon any excess.

The tax is to be paid when the sugar leaves the factory, but if any of the excess mentioned should be exported the sugar-maker will be entitled to the return of the additional tax of 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents paid in respect of it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

A report published in the "Labour Gazette" of the 16th May, based on 3,202 returns, viz.: 2,030 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,107 from Workmen and Trade Unions, and 65 from other sources, states that the general state of employment, apart from seasonal movements in certain industries, shows no material change as compared with February. As compared with a year ago it continues to show some decline.

State of the Labour Market in April, 1903.* In the 226 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 554,901, making returns, 22,665 (or 4.1 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 4.3 per cent. in March, and 3.9 per cent. in the 224 Trade Unions, with a membership of 550,958, from which returns were received for April, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of April during the past decade was 4.1.

* For principal contents of the "Labour Gazette," see p. 373.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 14th May was **Cotton Statistics.** 32,471 and the number imported during the 20 weeks ended the 14th May was 1,919,779.

As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 14th May, 11,072 bales, and for the 20 weeks, 190,497.

For further details see p. 376.

The following Inspectors of Weights and Measures have passed the examination provided for in the 11th section of the Weights and Measures Act, 1889:—
Inspectors of Weights and Measures. Bailey, Arthur Cecil, London County; Greening, Alfred, Kidderminster; Greenstreet, Charles, Margate; Helliwell, James Samuel, Middlesex; Ryley, Egbert Wyld, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Spiller, Albert John, Bristol.

EGYPTIAN SUDAN.

A copy of the "Sudan Gazette" for March last has been received at the Board of Trade, through the Foreign Office, containing the text of an Ordinance for the acquisition of land in the Sudan for public purposes.
Ordinance for the Acquisition of Land for Public Purposes.

Section 28 of the Ordinance empowers the Governor General to acquire land for a Company or private person when it is proposed to make use of such land for a public purpose or a purpose which is likely to prove advantageous to the Government.

The full text of the Ordinance may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Miscellaneous.

RUSSIA.

The "*Jurnal de St. Pétersbourg*" of the 22nd April/5th May announced that, by order of the Russian Ministry of Finance, an expedition was about to set out for Western Mongolia with the object of studying the products and commerce of that country. The following itinerary has been adopted:—Zaïssan, Kobdo, Uliassutai, the valley of Ulu-Kem, Ulankom, Koscho-Agatch, Biisk.

**Trade
Commission
to Western
Mongolia.**

GERMANY.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a memorandum on the Leipzig Fairs, drawn up by the Commercial Attaché to H.M. Embassy at Berlin in response to an enquiry on the subject.

According to this memorandum there are three fairs in the year at Leipzig,—(a) the New Year's Fair, from 3rd January to 16th; (b) the Great Easter Fair, beginning on the first Sunday after Easter and lasting up to the fourth Sunday; and (c) the Michaelmas Fair, lasting from the last Sunday in August for the space of twenty-two days. There is also a preliminary Easter Fair ("Vormesse") from the first Monday in March up to the Saturday in the following week.

Every description of article is sold at these fairs. There is no hard and fast rule as to the kinds of wares sold, but the following may be looked upon as the chief characteristics as to the nature of the goods exhibited. Toys, china, glass, metal, haberdashery, fancy goods and products of their kindred branches are mostly sold at the preliminary Easter Fair and at the Michaelmas one. Leather, hides, skins, bristles, and similar articles are mostly found at the New Year's Fair, Easter Fair, and Michaelmas one. All kinds of textiles are chiefly to be found at the Easter and Michaelmas Fairs.

PORTUGUESE INDIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a report by the Acting British-Consul at Mormugão, on the trade of that Consular district for the year 1902.

**Trade of
Mormugão (Goa)
in 1902.**

In this report, it is stated that by Royal Decree dated 31st December, 1902, and published in the "*Boletim Oficial*" of 6th February, 1903, the Government is authorised to coin up to 300,000 silver rupees in successive issues of 50,000, with a view to reinforcing the circulation of silver money peculiar to Portuguese India. With reference to this subject merchants and others who may

**Coinage at
Mormugão.**

Miscellaneous.

trade with or have occasion to visit the territory, should bear in mind that Portuguese money is not legal tender in British India, and that the rupees are subject to duty as silver in British Indian Custom-houses.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Referring to the notice on pp. 543-4 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 28th February, 1901, the Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul at New Orleans, transmitting a report by the British Vice-Consul at Key West relative to the condition of the sponge fishing industry at Key West and the Laws regulating the same.

In this report the Vice-Consul states that the present condition of the industry is excellent, and sponges are very plentiful.

There are engaged in this industry about 150 boats or vessels of a tonnage of from 5 tons to 45 tons register, fully 1,500 men being employed as crews for these vessels. The total value per annum of the catch is estimated at 500,000 dols.

The sponges are comprised of what are called "key" and "bay" sponges, the value of the key sponges being 50,000 dols., and of the bay 450,000 dols. The former are gathered on the north-east side of the coast near the Straits of Florida from Key West to Cape Florida, and the latter are gathered from Key West or on the side of the Gulf of Mexico extending from Key West to St. Marks, Florida. The sponges are gathered with poles and hooks, the depth of water in which they are gathered varying from 5 ft. to 50 ft.

The different classes of sponges are known as sheeps' wool, yellow, grass, and velvet.

The Vice-Consul also transmits a copy of the Laws of the State of Florida regulating the catch of sponges. These may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

H.M. Consul at Boston (Mass.) reports that the total value of the imports into that port for the year 1902 reached 15,628,634*l.*, showing an increase of 2,561,244*l.* as compared with 1901, the notable feature of the year being the increase in the imports of fibre and its manufactures from 1,327,400*l.* in 1901 to 2,717,536*l.* in 1902, or an increase of 1,390,136*l.*

This is principally shown in the raw products, the imports of manila showing an increase of 727,000*l.*; of flax, 192,000*l.*; sisal hemp, 370,000*l.*; while the imports of plain fibre fabrics increased 254,000*l.*

*Miscellaneous.***UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—continued.**

The principal articles imported into Boston in 1902 were as follows:—

Articles.										Value.
										\$
Fibres and vegetable grasses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,717,536
Wool and manufactures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,983,832
Cotton and manufactures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,965,460
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,245,525
Hides and skins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,312,702
Chemicals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	758,275

The inward transit and transhipment trade passing through the port amounted to 4,868,184*l.*, as compared with 3,140,788*l.* in 1901, and was made up as follows:—

Goods entered at Boston for transhipment to foreign countries, principally Canada, showed a value in 1902 of 1,554,164*l.*, as compared with 1,452,418*l.* in 1901.

The value of goods of Canadian origin exported from Boston amounted in 1902 to 5,039,824*l.* (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,967.*)

In the same report, H.M. Consul, referring to the falling-off of 30 per cent. in the export trade of the port during 1902, states that no doubt the failure of the corn crop in 1901, and subsequent decline in the export of that and allied products, was the primary cause of this falling-off, but there were other influences. These influences may be stated as follow:—(1) Competition of the port of Portland (Maine) through a lower export rate made by the Grand Trunk Railway; (2) the embargo on the export of cattle from the port of Boston instituted in November last; (3) the competition of the so-called "cotton ports"; and (4), most important of all, the action of the steamship lines in establishing early in the year a so-called "Uniform Minimum Ocean Rate" from all North Atlantic ports. The practical result of this action upon the port of Boston was to create a lower through rate from the west to foreign countries, *via* those ports enjoying an inland differential railway rate, than *via* New York and Boston. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,967.*)

CHINA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a despatch from H.M. Commercial

**British Trade
with China in
1902.**

Attaché at Shanghai, enclosing a comparative table, as follows, showing the value of British trade with China during 1902, based on the

Imperial Maritime Customs' Statistics:—

Miscellaneous.

— — — — —					1901.*	1902.†
					£	£
Total imports ...	...	...	...	...	35,185,275	89,118,115
„ exports ...	...	...	...	...	27,801,660	30,693,946
Total trade ...					62,986,935	69,811,061
United Kingdom—						
Imports from ...	...	...	...	...	6,100,000	7,491,199
Exports to ...	...	...	...	...	1,266,300	1,344,763
Hong-Kong—						
Imports from ...	...	...	...	...	17,798,250	17,358,141
Exports to ...	...	...	...	...	10,664,260	10,745,458
India—						
Imports from ...	...	...	...	...	4,282,550	4,294,867
Exports to ...	...	...	...	...	465,650	368,193
Other British Dominions—						
Imports from ...	...	...	...	...	892,700	941,625
Exports to ...	...	...	...	...	493,970	468,014
Total British trade ...					£ 41,963,620	43,012,267

* At exchange, 2s. 11½d. = 1 Haikwan Tael.

† At exchange, 2s. 7½d. = 1 Haikwan Tael.

[NOTE.—As regards the above table, attention has to be called to certain defects in the method, according to which the returns of the Imperial Maritime Customs are compiled.

The figures showing the total foreign trade of the country represent the value of imports at moment of landing, and of exports at moment of shipment. These figures are arrived at by the following process :—From the market value of the net imports is deducted the total collection of import duty, plus the likin on opium, payable at port of entry, and 7 per cent. for charges, &c. To the market value of exports is added the total collection of export duty and 8 per cent. for charges, &c.

In the case of the figures showing the proportion of trade with each foreign country, however, no such deductions or additions are made, and the requisite data not being available, it is not possible, except approximately, to reduce the two sets of figures to a common level.

No attempt has, therefore, been made to do so, and all statistics given in this report, other than those dealing with the total trade, are taken from the customs returns as they stand.

Another point not to be lost sight of, is the deceptive nature of the returns in respect of goods imported from and exported to Hong-Kong. A great deal of non-British optional cargo is brought on from that colony, and large quantities of purely Chinese produce is sent there from the southern ports for transhipment to other ports in China.]

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 20 Weeks ended 14th May, 1903.

	Week ended 14th May, 1903.	20 Weeks ended 14th May, 1903.	Week ended 14th May, 1903.	20 weeks ended 14th May, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	21,769	1,525,598	6,576	92,489
Brazilian	6,781	97,089	1,321	18,931
East Indian	500	49,905	1,799	14,849
Egyptian	692	225,710	1,231	60,816
Mucellaneous	2,729	21,477	145	3,912
Total	32,471	1,919,779	11,072	190,497

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 16th May, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

		Average Price.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
Week ended 16th May, 1903		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
...	...	27	9	22	5	18	4
Corresponding week in—							
1896 ... ..	...	25	6	21	8	14	6
1897 ... ..	...	28	1	19	10	17	9
1898 ... ..	...	48	1	26	0	21	3
1899 ... ..	...	25	3	23	11	17	10
1900 ... ..	...	25	7	24	5	18	5
1901 ... ..	...	27	7	24	2	19	4
1902 ... ..	...	31	1	25	3	22	5

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 16th May, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 16th May, 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	14,820	8,072
Sheep and lambs	"	15,437	5,189
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	683	156
Fresh meat :—			
Beef... ..	Cwts.	70,252	68,075
Mutton	"	98,664	104,689
Pork	"	8,987	7,030
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	117,978	108,453
Beef	"	4,216	8,615
Hams	"	16,846	87,497
Pork	"	5,559	5,269
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	17,977	13,822
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	8,998	12,681
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	72,499	65,200
Margarine	"	18,740	22,657
Cheese	"	25,182	32,482
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	22	10
" cream	"	120	47
" condensed	"	18,384	18,804
" preserved, other kinds	"	169	16
Eggs	Grt. Hndrs.	428,916	265,992
Poultry and game	Value £	25,848	12,991
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	2,646	4,847
Lard	"	31,413	25,473
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,888,873	1,899,211
Wheat-meal and flour	"	366,211	416,907
Barley	"	208,048	836,784
Oats	"	292,869	835,378
Peas	"	74,584	20,010
Beans	"	7,586	30,185
Maize or Indian corn	"	873,137	739,118
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	30,700	20,268
Apricots and peaches	"	6	203
Bananas	Bunches.	57,915	61,853
Cherries	Cwts.	112	8,960
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	289	215
Grapes	"	152	214
Lemons	"	20,811	8,019
Oranges	"	224,629	161,307
Pears	"	1,050	210
Plums	"	—	—
Strawberries	"	50	5
Unenumerated	"	1,760	924
Hay	Tons.	8,605	8,817
Straw	"	1,285	1,669
Hope	Cwts.	518	262
Legum beans... ..	"	4,280	5,782
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	207,969	107,801
Potatoes	Cwts.	203,170	125,266
Tomatoes	"	20,179	14,369
Unenumerated	Value £	11,698	14,197
Vegetables, dried			
Preserved by canning	Cwts.	1,161	360
	"	1,872	2,819

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of April, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that Volume I of the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1902, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 11d. at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country). The second volume will contain details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 16th May:—State of the Labour Market in April; Workmen's Co-operative Productive Societies; the Railway Dispute in Victoria (Australia); Factories and Shops Law of Victoria—Report of Royal Commission; Labour Disputes and Conciliation and Arbitration in France in 1901; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the **Annual and Miscellaneous Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,971. Nuremberg, 1902.

British imports stationary, owing to prohibitive tariff.

Exports from the German Empire in 1900, 1901, and 1902, by countries.

Condition of the various industries of Bavaria.

Trades museum and technical institute at Nuremberg.

Importance of translating and converting price lists.

Government Publications.

No. 2,972. New York, 1902.

Home demand in excess of production, causing increased imports, notably in iron and steel.

Analysis of import and export trade.

Shipping returns; new lines of steamers.

Tables of principal articles of import and export at New York and Providence during the years 1901 and 1902; also totals by countries.

Grain shipments.

Statistics of employment, &c., of seamen.

No. 2,973. Corunna, 1902.

Openings for business in mining machinery, &c. Hints as to methods.

Railway schemes. Returns of shipping at Corunna, Ferrol, Gijon, Marin, Vigo, Villagarcia and Carril, and Vivero.

Comparative tables of principal articles imported and exported at the ports of Corunna, Gijon, Vigo, Villagarcia and Carril, with observations as to character of trade.

This publication contains also reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Ferrol, Gijon, Marin, Vigo, Villagarcia and Carril, and Vivero.

No. 2,974. Java, 1902.

Condition of export trade in sugar, coffee, tobacco, cinchona, bark, &c.

Analysis of import trade.

Particulars of tenders of Billiton tin.

Shipping returns at Batavia and Samarang.

Returns of principal articles of import and export at Java and Madura.

No. 2,975. Chinkiang, 1902.

Increased foreign imports. Competition of American cottons. Openings for minor articles of foreign manufacture.

Trade with the interior; river traffic.

Import, export and shipping returns for 1901 and 1902.

No. 2,976. Calais, 1902.

Examination of import and export trade.

Condition of agricultural and other industries. Production of coal, coke and patent fuel.

Shipping returns. Tables of principal articles of import and export at Calais, with comparison for the past five years and observations as to the character of trade.

This publication contains also reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Boulogne, Lille, Amiens, and the British Pro-Consul at Croix.

No. 2,977. Pomerania, 1902.

Increase in exports but decrease in imports.

Advice to British traders.

Shipbuilding at Stettin.

Returns of shipping at Stettin and Swinemünde, by countries.

Detailed statistics of imports

Government Publications.

and exports at Stettin and Swinemünde, with observations as to character of trade; also imports and exports from and

to British Colonies; special tables of exports of potatoes and imports of coal and salted herrings.

This publication contains also a report by the British Vice-Consul at Swinemünde.

No. 589. Mining Industries and Forestry in Turkey.

Mineral wealth of Aidin, Aivali, and Adalia. Capabilities of development, but capitalists discouraged by attitude of Government. Particulars of mines worked.

Statistics of exports of minerals from Smyrna.

Species of trees, extent, administration and working of forests in Aidin, Adalia, Aivali, and the islands of the Archipelago.

Good prospects for timber

trade, under improved methods of working.

Forests and mines of Aleppo; rich chrome deposits.

Mines and forestry in Syria, Beyrout, and the Lebanon.

Mineral wealth of Adana considerable and fairly accessible. Good prospects when mining laws are altered.

Mineral deposits in Erzeroum; mines and forests in Trebizond; exploitation hitherto unprofitable.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, 1902. Vol. I. [Cd. 1,583.] Price 6s. 11d.

This is the first volume of the Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom for the year 1902, and contains detailed statistics of the imports and exports of the principal articles of trade, distinguishing the countries whence imported, and to which sent during each of the five years 1898 to 1902. Certain alterations have been made this year in the classification of imports and exports, the classes of dyes and cotton piece-goods especially have been sub-divided in a more detailed manner than previously. The imposition of the corn duties in April, 1902, has also necessitated the introduction of several new headings in the statement. The second volume to be issued later will contain tables of imports and exports arranged under the headings of the countries from which they are received or to which they are sent, the amount of Customs duties received at each port, details of the imports and exports at each port, particulars of the imports and exports of corn and bullion, transhipment, &c., &c.

Straits Settlements Currency Committee Report. [Cd. 1,556.] Price 2d.

This is the report of a Committee appointed by the Colonial Office to consider the question of the desirability of the establish-

Government Publications.

ment of a gold standard in the Straits Settlements and the neighbouring Malay States, and the steps which should be taken to effect any change which might be thought desirable. The Committee do not think that a gold standard should be pressed in the Straits Settlements against the wishes of the Government and the people, but they are equally of opinion that no objection should be raised by H.M. Government to the change if the Straits Settlement Government decide in favour of an alteration to the gold standard. The Committee consider that such a change is practicable, and recommend the gradual introduction—a special Straits dollar to be substituted for the Mexican and British dollars, these latter being ultimately demonetized. These new dollars would eventually be issued at a fixed value in exchange for gold.

Africa No. 3 (1903). Report by Mr. A. Whyte on his recent Travels along the Sea Coast Belt of the British East Africa Protectorate. [Cd. 1,534.] Price 8½d.

This is a report by Mr. A. Whyte, Director of Agriculture, on a journey undertaken along the coast belt of the British East Africa Protectorate, with a view of prospecting that district in reference to its capabilities in the various branches of tropical and sub-tropical agriculture. Mr. Whyte suggests that the cocoanut palm, various rubber plants, and the indigo plant could be profitably cultivated in the region in question. Tables of meteorological observations and diagrams of certain plants are appended to the Report.

South Africa. Statement of the Estimated Financial Position of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. [Cd. 1,586.] Price ½d.

The return contains a statement of the amounts to be applied to the various purposes of the "Development Loan" for the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, and as to the security for the same. Particulars are also given as to the estimated revenue and expenditure of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies in 1903-4, and the method proposed for raising the War Contribution Loan and meeting the interest thereon.

Board of Agriculture. Annual Report of Proceedings under the Tithe Acts, the Copyhold Act, the Inclosure Acts, &c., &c., for the Year 1902. [Cd. 1,519.] Price 8d.

This is the Annual Report of the Proceedings of the Board of Agriculture under the various Acts administered in the Land Division of that Department. The present annual report is supplemented by a general account of the nature of the business arising, and of the facilities offered to the public, under the Acts in question, together with a description of the method of administration.

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

The following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in *italics*.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
EUROPE—					
Denmark:					
2934	Denmark (Supplementary) 1901	1d.	589	<i>Mining Industries and Forestries in Turkey ...</i>	3d.
France and Colonies:					
2949	Brest 1902	1½d.	2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1d.
2976	Calais "	2d.	2948	Somaliland Protectorate 1901-02	2½d.
2955	Cherbourg "	1½d.	588	<i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe Uganda</i>	1d.
2941	French Guinea ... 1901	1½d.	AFRICA—		
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	1½d.	AMERICA, NORTH—		
2960	Havre "	3d.	United States of America:		
2966	Indo-China "	1½d.	2967	Boston 1902	2½d.
German Empire and Colonies:			2952	Chicago "	4d.
2971	Bavaria-Nuremberg ... 1902	1d.	2942	New Orleans "	2½d.
2956	Chemnitz "	1d.	2972	New York "	1½d.
2945	Estimates of the German Empire 1903	1d.	2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky 1902	1½d.
2959	Germany 1902	1½d.	2968	Texas "	2d.
2977	Pomerania "	3d.	587	<i>Coal Industry of the United States in 1901</i>	2d.
Greece:			Mexico:		
2957	Cyclades 1902	1d.	2925	Mexico 1901	2½d.
2953	Morea, and Provinces of Acarnania and Etolia 1902	1d.	2951	Mexico City 1902	2½d.
2947	Thessaly "	1½d.	AMERICA, CENTRAL—		
Italy:			2963	Nicaragua 1902	1d.
2930	Finances of Italy ... 1902	1½d.	AMERICA, SOUTH—		
2933	Italy 1901	3d.	Argentina:		
2936	Naples 1902	1½d.	2940	Argentine finances 1901-02	1½d.
2935	Venice 1901-02	1½d.	2961	Buenos Ayres 1902	1½d.
Netherlands and Colonies:			Brazil:		
2965	Amsterdam 1902	1d.	2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	1½d.
2974	Java "	1½d.	2928	Rio de Janeiro ... 1901	1½d.
Portugal:			Chile:		
2954	Portugal 1902	1d.	2946	Coquimbo 1901	1½d.
Russia:			WEST INDIES—		
2943	Odessa (Supplementary) 1901	1½d.	2927	Hayti 1900	1d.
Servia:			ASIA—		
2958	Servia 1902	1d.	China:		
Spain:			2975	Chinkiang 1900	1d.
2924	Bilbao 1901	2½d.	2969	Hankow "	1½d.
2964	Bilbao 1902	2d.	Siam:		
Turkey:			2929	Chiengmai 1900	1d.
2970	Aleppo and Adana ... 1902	2d.	PACIFIC ISLANDS—		
2950	Constantinople "	2d.	2937	Samoa 1900	1d.
2932	Crete 1901	1d.			
2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899-1901	2d.			
2962	Palestine 1900	1d.			

*Government Publications.***Treaty Series.**

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.		Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries	1 <i>d.</i>
	Denmark:	
5	Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark for regulating the fisheries outside territorial waters in the ocean surrounding the Faroë Islands and Iceland... ..	7½ <i>d.</i>
	France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1 <i>d.</i>
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	United States of America :	
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska	1 <i>d.</i>
	AMERICA, CENTRAL—	
	Guatemala.	
6	Accession of Guatemala to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field.	1 <i>d.</i>
	ASIA—	
	Corea :	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	1 <i>d.</i>
7	International Convention relative to bounties on sugar	1½ <i>d.</i>

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C. :—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½ <i>d.</i>
378	British Guiana	2½ <i>d.</i>
379	Mauritius	3½ <i>d.</i>
380	Basutoland	3 <i>d.</i>
381	Southern Nigeria	2½ <i>d.</i>
381	Trinidad and Tobago	1½ <i>d.</i>
—	Cyprus	3 <i>d.</i>

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

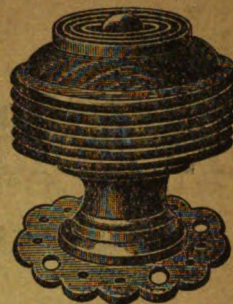
The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.

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Telephone : 4,270 GERRARD.

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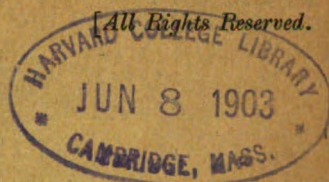
Vol. XLI.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY.



THE

Board of Trade Journal

(With which is incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

MAY 28, 1903.

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81 Queen Street,
Glasgow*

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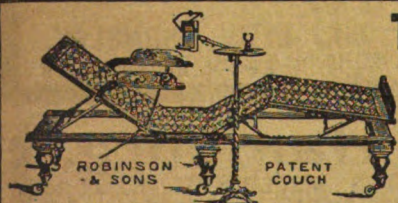
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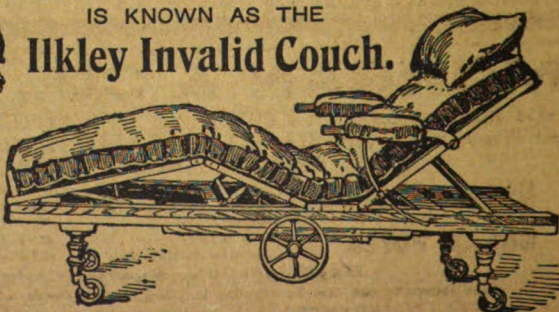
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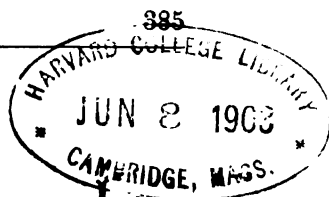
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THE

Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. XLI.]

May 28, 1903.

[No. 339.]

In a notice on p. 432 will be found a statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade having special regard to the recent transfer to the Board of Trade of the Imperial Institute. The main office of the Branch is at present at No. 50, Parliament Street, S.W., with a temporary enquiry office at 49, Eastcheap, E.C., the City Branch of the Imperial Institute.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. vi. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office, on pp. 429-31.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," and a note of a report issued by the Colonial Office during the same period, will be found on pp. 426-8.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: WAR OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for War is prepared to receive tenders for the manufacture and supply of gas at Sandhurst, during a period of six years, from 1st August, 1903.

**Tenders for the
Manufacture and
Supply of Gas
at Sandhurst.**

The existing Gas Works at Sandhurst may be inspected, and printed forms of tender, and any further information obtained, on application to the Director of supplies, Aldershot.

▲

Openings for British Trade.

UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

The tenders are to be delivered at the Head-Quarters Office, at Stanhope Lines, Aldershot, by 12 o'clock noon, on Wednesday, the 10th June, addressed to the General Officer Commanding, 1st Army Corps.

Sealed tenders will be received for the purchase, in one lot, of the engines, dynamo, and other machinery at present in the Admiralty Pier Turret at Dover, as follows:—

**Tenders for
Purchase of
Machinery.**

Main engines.—Two independent high pressure single-acting steam engines on one cast-iron bed plate; cylinders 18 ins. diameter, 24 ins. stroke; crankshaft 8 ins. diameter; connecting rods 5 ft. from centre to centre, fitted with reversing gear, &c.; suitable as a heavy winding engine.

Auxiliary engines.—Two sets complete, on separate bed plates. Each set consists of two high pressure single-acting steam engines, on one bed plate; cylinders 8 ins. diameter, 10 ins. stroke, fitted with Tangye's patent governor and stop valves; crankshaft $3\frac{1}{4}$ ins. diameter; connecting rod 2 ft. 1 in. centres; engine fitted with reversing gear, &c.

Boilers.—Two horizontal locomotive type (makers, Thames, Limited, London); barrel 10 ft. by 4 ft.; shell 6 ft. 6 ins. by 4 ft. by 4 ft. 5 ins.; firebox 5 ft. 1 in. by 3 ft. 7 ins. by 3 ft. $4\frac{1}{4}$ ins.; tubes No. 74, length 10 ft. $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. by $2\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter. Each boiler has been tested and guaranteed to a working pressure of 90 lbs. per square inch. Each boiler has a separate feed pump and injector.

Engine and dynamo.—Connected direct on one bed plate; bed plate of cast-iron box section; diameter of cylinder $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; length of stroke 4 inches; revolutions per minute 450; steam valve (stop) $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; exhaust $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Dynamo makers, Electric Construction Company, Wolverhampton; output 80 ampères at 100 volts.

All the existing fittings, steam connections, ventilating fan, piping, iron platform, &c., to be included, and to be removed with it.

The whole of the machinery is in good condition and thorough working order, and can be seen on application.

Forms of tender, conditions of contract, and passes to view the machinery, may be obtained on application, by letter, addressed to the Division Officer, Royal Engineers, Western Heights, Dover, or in person between the hours of 10 and 4 o'clock, on or before the 5th June, 1903.

*Openings for British Trade.***BRITISH INDIA.**

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, to the effect that the directors are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following stores, namely :—

**Tenders for
Railway
Material.**

Volute and spiral springs, mild steel plates for loco. boilers, hydraulic punching bears, copper plates, steel shield plates, bellows, hemp, twines, &c.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned.

Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Volute and Spiral Springs," or, as the case may be, not later than 11 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, the 4th June.

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

CANADA.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade. Offices, Victoria Street, S.W., where further information may be obtained :—

Home Enquiries.—A West of England manufacturer of chair webs and twines, saddlery webs and twines, has made enquiry with a view to increasing his Canadian connection.

A Liverpool firm desire to hear from Canadian manufacturers who require active representation in Great Britain and West Africa, where they have important connections.

A Bristol produce broker wishes to get into communication with responsible Canadian shippers of bacon, butter and cheese who require representation in his district.

A correspondent in Staffordshire has asked to be placed in communication with producers of felspar and gypsum in Canada.

A London importer wishes to correspond direct with large producers in Canada of flour, mealies, oats, wheat, barley and lumber.

Canadian Enquiry.—The proprietors of an iron and steel rolling mill in Ontario are desirous of hearing from English manufacturers of steel and iron billets.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—continued.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the Canadian Enquiries relating Section of the Imperial Institute, from the Curator of which Section further particulars to Canadian Trade. may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A firm of brokers wish to hear from Canadian producers of raspberry, black currant and other fruit pulps.

A Midlands house ask to be placed in communication with Canadian manufacturers of ash shovel handles who can execute orders promptly.

A firm possessing a considerable connection in builders' hardware, machinery and manufactures of wood are prepared to represent Canadian manufacturers of these goods who seek an export outlet.

Canadian Enquiries.—A Montreal shipper of seeds, peas, beans, &c., asks to be placed in correspondence with United Kingdom importers.

A Canadian correspondent, who has been long associated with a prominent industrial company, is about to inaugurate a manufacturers' agency, and would like to secure the representation of a few United Kingdom manufacturers of ironmongery, machinery and similar goods wishing to develop trade in Canada. First-class references.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Tenders will be received at the Supply and Tender Board Office,

Tenders for Bore Tubes in South Australia. Adelaide, up to 3 o'clock p.m. of Tuesday, 23rd June, for the supply and delivery at the Public Stores, Port Adelaide, of—

6,000 ft. 6½ in. W.I. swell-joint lap-welded bore tubes.

15,000 ft. 5 in. W.I. swell-joint lap-welded bore tubes.

Duty (if any) will be paid by the Government.

Specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the above office. No tender will be recognised unless on the proper printed form. Copies of the specification can be obtained at the price of 5s. each.

Tenders should be endorsed "Tender for W.I. Bore Tubes."

The successful tenderer will be required, within seven days of date of notice of acceptance, to make a deposit equal to 5 per cent. of the total value of the accepted tender as security for the due fulfilment of contract.

Neither the lowest nor any tender necessarily accepted.

*Openings for British Trade.***AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH**—*continued.*

Tenders will also be received at the Supply and Tender Board Office, Adelaide, up till 3 p.m. of Wednesday, 22nd July, 1903, for the supply of the following materials, delivered in bond, on wharf, Port Adelaide, wharfage to be paid by the contractor:—

- Tenders for Railway Materials in South Australia.**
- 24 mild steel boiler plates.
 - 2 best mild steel smokebox tube plates for flanging (1 drawing, 1s.).
 - 12 best mild steel boiler plates for flanging.
 - 2 copper tube plates for flanging (1 drawing, 1s.).
 - 2 copper back plates for flanging (1 drawing, 1s.).
 - 2 copper wrapping plates.
 - 3 bars of best Yorkshire tee iron (2 drawings, 1s. each).
 - 3 bars of best Yorkshire angle iron (2 drawings, 1s. each).
 - 91 bars of best Yorkshire iron.
 - 550 solid drawn best toughened copper tubes; or "Non-corrodible" weldless steel tubes for locomotive boilers. (Alternative.)
 - 146 mild steel plates.
 - 20 plates of charcoal iron or extra smooth surface B.B.S.
 - 6 spiral springs (1 drawing, 1s. 6d.).
 - 2 steam pressure gauges (1 drawing, 1s. 6d.).
 - 2 solid drawn best copper pipes.
 - 36 solid drawn copper pipes.
 - 2 circular plates of best Yorkshire iron.
 - 6 Gresham's patent combination self-acting injectors.
 - 4 bars coping of iron (1 drawing, 1s.).
 - 3 No. 3 C triple feed improved Detroit locomotive sight feed lubricators.
 - 6 best mild steel crank pin forgings (1 drawing, 1s. 6d.).
 - 8 best crucible cast-steel slide bars.
 - 18 mild steel plates.
 - 1,870 bronze flexible firebox stays.
 - 8 best steel straight axle forgings (1 drawing, 1s.).
 - 16 tender tyres (1 drawing, 1s.).
 - 16 cast-steel tender wheel centres (1 drawing, 3s. 6d.).
 - 14 bars of convex coping iron (1 drawing, 1s.).
 - 24 bars of channel steel (two drawings, 1s. each).
- Westinghouse Brake Company's standard quick-acting brake details.

Specifications may be seen and forms of tender obtained at the above office, and at the office of the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Islington (South Australia); specifications may also be seen at the office of the Agent-General for South Australia, in London.

Copies of indent, with specifications complete (24s. each) and drawings, may be obtained at the Chief Mechanical Engineer's office, Islington.

Openings for British Trade.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—continued.

Date of delivery, as well as the names of the manufacturers of the materials tendered for, must be distinctly stated in each tender.

The materials are to be subject to the inspection, test, and approval of the Government inspecting engineer, in London, or the Chief Mechanical Engineer, in Adelaide.

The expenses of the inspecting engineer will be paid by the Agent-General, London (except in cases as specified), who will also advance 75 per cent. on the contract upon receipt of bills of lading, insurance policy, and the usual shipping documents, accompanied by the certificate of the inspecting engineer; and the balance of the contract will be paid in Adelaide or London, at the option of the contractor, upon satisfactory delivery of the materials.

Successful tenderers will be required, within seven days of date of notice of acceptance of tender, to enter into an agreement and make a deposit equal to 5 per cent. of the total value of their accepted tender as security for the due fulfilment of contract.

Tenders should be endorsed "Tender for Railway Materials."

Neither the lowest nor any tender necessarily accepted.

TRINIDAD.

A communication has been received at the Board of Trade from the

Collector of Customs at Port of Spain, in which reference is made to the large quantities of dried salted fish which are imported into Trinidad,

chiefly from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Ling would sell readily if it could compete in price with good cod, which is retailed at from 3d. to 4d. per lb. The better class grocers get small monthly supplies in tin-lined boxes, of 28, 56, and 100 lbs., the last quotation being at 28s. per cwt. f.o.b. The present retail price is 6d. per lb., and, no doubt, if sold more cheaply, consumption would increase.

The Collector adds that tin-lined packages are expensive, and suggests that perhaps a greased or waxed lining might prove suitable. As fish quickly spoils in Trinidad large quantities should not be sent, and the most direct route should be used.

EGYPT.

With reference to the notice on p. 55 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 9th April, a further communication has been received from the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways to the effect that the Board has postponed the sale of the Port Said railway material, which was to have taken place on the 30th May.

A notice will be issued in due course appointing the new date for the adjudication.

**Sale of Port Said-
Ismailia Steam
Tramway
Material.**

Openings for British Trade.

RUSSIA.

A recent report from the French Embassy at St. Petersburg dealing with the foreign trade of Russia, indicates various directions in which French trade may be extended. The following particulars extracted from this report may also be of interest to British manufacturers:—

The writer of the report considers that there are good prospects of business in connection with apparatus and accessories necessary for the installation and working of blast furnaces. Hitherto, German, American and Belgian houses have been equipping these enterprises.

It is stated that steam engines of 10 to 10,000 horse-power are in demand for rolling mills, foundries, brickmaking, &c.

As regards steam pumps (exhaustion, centrifugal and others), American and German makers have been successful, and their models, it is considered, might be followed with advantage.

The many railway extensions in Siberia and Russia may be expected to result in a demand for machinery for the manufacture of small railway materials.

Machine tools are scarcely manufactured at all in Russia. In venturing in this field, attention is called to the fact that previous experience has shown that the Russian workman is too clumsy to handle delicate machinery and tools.

Low gas motors are stated to be in increasing demand as a result of the cheapness of the anthracite from the coal basins of Southern Russia, which is sold at about 6s. 10d. a ton, the reason given being that the installation and working of a gas motor and of a low gas generator is cheaper than in the case of steam. These motors have been employed recently for utilising the gas of blast furnaces. It would seem that a good opening exists on Russian markets for low gas motors, and quite a number of 1,000 h.p. on the "Deutz" system have already been imported.

Naphtha, petrol, and benzine motors are also regarded as worthy of attention.

Oil Motors.

Openings for British Trade.

RUSSIA—continued.

Regarding electrical accessories, the report considers that an increasing demand should be found for dynamos, arc and incandescent lamps, fittings, &c., as soon as trade has recovered. At present 80 per cent. of this business is in German hands. In this connection the scheme for electrifying the St. Petersburg tramway system and the concessions recently granted for the exploitation of the waterfalls in Finland are mentioned.

With reference to machinery and implements used in agriculture, flour milling, mechanical bakeries, sugar refineries, distilleries, tanneries, &c., the report traces the progress of German and American competition, and suggests that an experienced man acquainted with the language should investigate the Urals, Northern Caucasus, Manchuria, and, in particular, Siberia.

The writer of the report finds that business in textile machinery is monopolised by German, British, and Belgian manufacturers, and he draws attention to the new centres which are now being created in Perm, Orenburg, Kazan, Southern Russia, and the Caucasus.

Regarding automobiles, the writer remarks that the bad condition of the roads is a great obstacle to their introduction. On the military road between Tiflis and Vladicaucasus, however, a service of motor vehicles is under consideration. In the Crimea, where there are several carriage roads, an electric tramway has been tried between Yalta and Sebastopol, and abandoned as unprofitable. It is suggested that the establishment of a service of automobiles might be more remunerative.

NORWAY.

A despatch has been received at the Board of Trade, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, reporting that tenders are invited for the supply of a quantity of leather to the Norwegian army as follows:—

For the army equipment depôt there are required to be delivered free at the depôt—

12,000 kilogs. upper leathers, tanned with pure oak bark without the use of extracts, laid aside, sprinkled or soaked for at

Openings for British Trade.

NORWAY—*continued.*

least eight weeks, greased only with spent fish oil, tallow and train oil. To be delivered—

3,000 kilogs. during March, 1904.

3,000 " " May, 1904.

6,000 " " September, 1904.

10,000 kilogs. thick sole leather, tanned as above, laid aside, sprinkled or soaked for a sufficient time, to be delivered—

3,000 kilogs. during March, 1904.

2,000 " " May, 1904.

5,000 " " September, 1904.

7,000 kilogs. in-sole leather, tanned and treated as the last, to be delivered—

2,000 kilogs. during March, 1904.

2,000 " " May, 1904.

3,000 " " September, 1904.

Models and conditions may be inspected at the Depot Director's Office, or at that of the District Intendant.

The right is reserved to stamp a harmless mark on leather that is rejected as unfit for military use, but in such a way that it shall not interfere with its prospects of sale at a later date.

Tenders sealed and marked "Loeder til Armeen" must be received at "General-intendents Kontor, Christiania," by 10 a.m. on the 8th June, 1903.

Apart from the usual Customs duties a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

A further despatch has been received from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania reporting that tenders are invited for the supply and delivery of 8,630 metres of uniform cloth for the Norwegian State Railways.

Tenders in sealed envelopes marked "Uniformsklæde" will be received at "Styrelsens Expeditionskontor, Statsbanerne, Christiania," up to 3 p.m. of the 7th July, 1903.

The conditions of delivery may be inspected at the Office of the Machinery Director, Norwegian State Railways, Christiania.

Apart from the usual Customs duties, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

DENMARK.

A notice appears in the "Berlingske Tidende" of May 15th, calling for tenders for the supply of about 5,000 tons of rails and fish-plates for the use of the Danish State Railways..

Rails.

Conditions of tender and drawings may be inspected at the office of the Permanent Way Department of the Danish State Railways,

Openings for British Trade.

DENMARK—*continued.*

11, Colbjørnsensgade, Copenhagen, or will be sent post free from that office at a cost of 4 kroner (4s. 6d.). Tenders will be received up to 2 p.m. on 8th June.

According to a report from the French Embassy at Copenhagen, published in the "Journal Officiel (Paris)" of the 18th May, there is an increasing demand in Denmark for American apples. They are sold there for 50 ore (7d.) per three pounds.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA.

The "Journal des Transports" (Paris) of the 16th May states that the French Minister of the Colonies recently submitted to Parliament a Bill authorising the Government of the French Colonies in West Africa to raise a sum of 65,000,000 francs (2,600,000*l.*) on account of public works, including the following:—

5,450,000 francs	on sanitary works,
12,600,000	" " port works,
17,000,000	" " the Guinea railway,
10,000,000	" " the Ivory Coast railway and port.

The projects under particular consideration are the extension of the French Guinea railway as far as Fouta Djallon, and the survey of the line from Thies (on the Dakar Saint-Louis line) to Kayes on the Soudan railway, referred to in the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 26th February last, p. 428.

SPAIN.

In his recent report to the Foreign Office, the Acting British Consul at Corunna states that in view of the fact that electricity in all its branches is making great progress in that town, British manufacturers of electric appliances should study the market, where there is an absence of such articles of British origin, nearly all the motors, arc lamps, projectors, lighting, power and traction plant coming from Germany and France.

The fishing industry is now one of the most important in the port of Corunna, new methods are gradually being introduced and the fleet of small fishing steamers increases steadily. This year about 200 tons of cod-roe for bait were imported from Norway, which will give an idea of the importance which this industry is acquiring. There should be an opening for the sale of small fishing boats; those at present in use are about 150 tons, and are mostly registered at the port of Vigo.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—continued.

Further on in his report the Acting Consul writes :—" Although the season is over, it should be borne in mind
Galoshes. that galoshes find a ready sale here owing to the damp climate throughout this district.

" In several establishments I notice a great display of these articles, and on making enquiries I learnt that a firm in Boston (U.S.A.), has nearly all this business without competition in this town, and advertises profusely in the local papers.

" Typewriters are now coming into general use, and there is room for British makers to push business here."
Typewriters. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,973.*)

On pp. 398-9 will be found a reference to a proposed Exhibition of
Mining Minerals at Lugo, which, in the opinion of the
Machinery. Acting British Consul at Corunna, should prove a good opportunity for British machinery firms to send catalogues in Spanish weights and measures.

The " Gaceta de Madrid " of the 21st May contains a notice calling for tenders to be presented up to 5 p.m. on
Port Works. 15th June, and which will be opened at 1 p.m. on 20th idem in the Directorate General of Public Works, situated in the building occupied by the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, and Public Works, Madrid, for the construction of the first section of the work of canalising the port and estuary of Mondaca, a service dependent on the Port Works of the said port and estuary, in the province of Viscaya, at the upset price of 257,195·33 pesetas, or about 7,510*l*. A provisional deposit of 1 per cent. is required to qualify any tender. The estimate, conditions, and plans of the work may be seen in the Ministry above named and in the Civil Government Offices of the province of Viscaya.

The " Gaceta de Madrid " of 24th May contains a Decree authorising an appropriation of water from the River Tresser, in the district of Rivas y Campellas, Province of Gerona, to the amount of 4,000 litres per second, by Don José Pont, for the production of electric power for the Ripoll to Rivas railway.
Hydro-electric Plant.

The same " Gaceta " contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened at 11 a.m. on 20th June in the Casa Consistorial of the city of Zaragoza, for the supply and laying down in the public streets of that city 7,000 square metres of asphalt at the upset price of
Tenders for Asphalt.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—continued.

9 pesetas, or about 5s. 3d. per square metre. A provisional deposit of 5 per cent. of the amount of the contract calculated at the upset price is required to qualify any tender.

The "Gacetas" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

TURKEY.

In his recent report for the year 1902, the British Vice-Consul at Adana states that tea is on the increase as a beverage, especially in winter. Very cheap teas can sell well, and local agents should be told to extend this trade in the interior. Thousands of Circassians residing to the east of Kaiserieh drink much tea, and this now comes in from Russia or Persia. No drinkable tea is sold in Turkey, and yet that sold commands an excessive price. This trade needs to be developed.

Much indigo is imported. It is used locally, and goes to the interior also.

Indigo.

India practically holds the monopoly for the above articles, and it is not too much to hope that the Indian trade will be threefold greater when the proposed railway extension is carried out.

The Vice-Consul also reports that the goods to push at Adana are cottons, fancy cloths for suitings and dresses (cheap and showy), cutlery, glass and earthenware, ironware, boots and gaiters, galoshes, waterproofs, umbrellas, saddlery and harness, fezzes, overcoats, hand mirrors, razors, tinned jams and provisions, soaps, ladies' underlinen, perfumes, stationery, ink, &c. (especially copying), sporting articles, cheap velveteens and corduroys, agricultural machinery (if light, strong and cheap), sewing machines, stoves, lamps, carpenters' tools, and many others to be ascertained by travelling agents. All must be as cheap as possible. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,970.*)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

H.M. Consul-General at New York reports that the receipts of Scotch cured herrings at New York in 1902 amounted to about 36,000 barrels, showing an increase of about 5,000 barrels as compared with the two previous years.

Herrings.

Openings for British Trade.

The demand for herrings was exceptionally good in view of the high prices ruling for meat and fresh fish. The summer-cured herrings, both from Scotland and Ireland, were of very good quality. Prices opened at 10 dols. (2*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*) a barrel, and continued to rise till they reached 13 dols. (2*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*) a barrel. Those from Downings Bay were particularly fine, and sold at 13 to 15 dols. (3*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*) a barrel, according to quality and care taken in selection and packing. Winter-cured herrings from Donegal, Scrabster, Wick and Yarmouth were not so satisfactory in quality, and prices ruled about 25 per cent. lower. Scotch-cured herrings from Newfoundland ruled still lower, chiefly in consequence of want of care and attention in selection and packing, and a certain proportion, being hard-cured in addition, remained unsold. The demand is likely to be still larger next year, but it is necessary, in order to obtain full prices, that the fish should be carefully selected, uniform in size, properly packed, with no salt in the package, and as mild-cured and soft as possible. The Downings Bay herrings have been very popular, and a much larger quantity could be sold if they were shipped during the autumn and winter. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,972.*)

CUBA.

In a recent report, the French Consul at Santiago de Cuba states with regard to the importation of pharmaceutical specialities into Cuba that, by reason of the tropical climate of the island, illnesses are frequent. The inhabitants seek relief generally by means of native remedies, especially in the interior of the island, or they purchase articles known to them, or, in preference, the latest expensively advertised pharmaceutical speciality.

The French Consul considers therefore that pharmaceutical specialities take an important position in Cuba, but they must be extensively advertised.

Particular care should be taken in the packing, owing to the damp climate. Articles that are affected by moisture, turn into a sticky conglomerate mass; salts dissolve and lose a part of their therapeutic properties.

The French Consul concludes by expressing his opinion that pharmaceutical specialities, particularly those in a compressed form, have a great future in Cuba, provided that detailed instructions for use, translated into Spanish, are included.

Openings for British Trade.

CHILE.

The "Diario Oficial" of Chile of 8th April contains a Decree authorising the Government to ask for proposals for the construction of a metre gauge railway from the city of Los Andes to the summit of the Cordillera, to unite with a railway of the same gauge which is to come from Mendoza, on account of the proposer and with the guarantee of the State, in conformity with the law No. 1,588 of 14th February last. Before the 1st of July of the present year the Government will fix all the conditions and requirements relative to the work, and the proposals will be opened in the Ministry of Public Works, Santiago, on the 1st of May, 1904.

**Building the
Transandine
Railway.**

The "Diario" of 14th April contains a further Decree appointing a special commission, consisting of Messrs. Ramon Barros Luco, Dario Zanartu, Domingo Victor Santa Maria, Enrique Budge, Luis Antonio Vergara and Joaquin Echenique, to study and propose to the Ministry the best form for soliciting the proposals referred to above.

CHINA.

In his report for the year 1902, H.M. Consul at Hankow states that the new entry of cigars and cigarettes into that port, to the value of 5,015*l.* in 1902, marks the introduction of the revised Tariff.

**Cigars and
Cigarettes.**

European matches reappear with 26,260 gross, against Japan's 22,660 gross, and the local factory took more materials than ever.

Matches.

The gross import of Ceylon tea dust rose from 15,683 to 27,448 cwts., and of this 10,346 cwts. are noted as re-exported abroad as a component part of brick tea; the net import of 2,647 cwts. will probably be put to the same use, as were the 14,455 cwts. re-exported to Chinese ports. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,969.*)

Ceylon Tea Dust.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION.

SPAIN.

The Acting British Consul at Corunna, in his recent report, states that attention should be given to an Exhibition of all classes of Minerals, which will take place probably during the months of September and October, in the town of Lugo. A movement is on foot to obtain free entry through the Custom-house for all samples of machinery plant, sent by foreign firms to be exhibited.

**Exhibition of
Minerals at
Lugo.**

Openings for British Trade.

This opportunity, says the Acting British Consul, should not be lost by British firms. According to a recent report by the British Vice-Consul at Gijon, the United Kingdom has regained the first place in the machinery market in the Province of Asturias, and now, when this exhibition is being organised, is the time to send catalogues in Spanish weights and measures.

For the time being these catalogues and other communications should be addressed "Señor Secretario de la Comisión de propaganda de la Exposición Minera, Despacho de la Diputación, Lugo." Later on competent representatives of these firms should follow the catalogues. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,973.*)

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Hankow.—H.M. Consul at Hankow in his report for 1902 (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,969*) writes:—

"It is usual to assert that the native dealers having learned to supply their wants at the great centres, Shanghai and Hong-Kong, the foreign merchant cannot with any chance of profit promote the consumption of established imports, or induce a demand for new ones. That the Japanese do press their products locally may be ascribed to their closer kinship with the Chinese, and the more intimate knowledge which they can acquire of native ways and wants. Yet one firm has proved that perseverance, energy and enterprise can establish a direct trade with local dealers, who, after all, naturally prefer to save the Shanghai native agents' commission, provided a sufficient assortment of the wares they deal in is provided locally. I knew also a Chinese-speaking Englishman who, throughout the Southern provinces, had, by means of native agencies which he visited periodically, built up a very considerable business for the firms which he represented. Possibly now that competition has made merchants keen not to miss any chance, it might be worth while not to accept without experiment the prevalent opinion quoted above.

"Consuls do not suffer from any lack of exhortation to assist their nationals actively, especially by pressing their advice and aid upon merchants. Merchants, on the other hand, are usually, and very naturally, loth to consult with, still less to accept guidance from, amateurs whose reports are published, concerning business in which they have presumably acquired, by experience, special knowledge not to be divulged to their rivals. In this difficult position the most discreet course seems to be willing support to the extent of one's ability of those who appeal for Consular assistance. Apart from resident merchants, who are often glad to have the Consul's opinion as to the effect of treaty

British Trade Abroad.

provisions, and the possibility of inducing local authorities to adopt the interpretation thereof most favourable to trade, merchants in other parts of the world frequently seek to learn what openings exist for their special wares. In the absence of trade museums and Chinese Chambers of Commerce, such letters can only be handed to the local firms when the enquiry relates to articles more suited to Chinese use than gramophones, cream separators and grand pianos. Price lists and trade journals, even were they written in faultless Chinese, could not profitably be distributed, and Chinese dealers would not visit a Consulate reading room. But at all the larger ports native newspapers are to be found, and supply a cheap and fairly effectual means of advertisement, provided that the possible customer finds therein the address of some agent close to his place of business. Such advertisements might be inserted through the aid of the International Chambers of Commerce at the larger ports; but this work would more naturally form part of the duty of the Chinese-speaking commercial travellers, who, now that China is better known and attracts more general attention, appear to me, speaking with all the diffidence of one who is not a trade expert, the inevitable and most suitable means of extending foreign trade. Travelling in China away from a railway line will always be slow and uncomfortable; but it is now seldom attended with worse annoyance than the inquisitiveness of the natives—a drawback that might itself prove useful to a pioneer of trade."

Aleppo.—H.M. Consul at Aleppo, in his report for 1902, states that it is a matter for congratulation that British trade in cotton goods with the vilayet of Aleppo advanced, and that the competition by Italy in the matter of yarns and T-cloths is no longer noticeable. In fact, Italy only imported 901 tons of manufactures in 1902, as compared with 938 tons in 1901.

Further on in his report the Consul writes:—

"Here the peasant continues to cultivate the ground as in the Middle Ages, and there is not a single landowner throughout the district who has sufficient courage to introduce the simplest modern machinery. The greater number of catalogues I receive from the United Kingdom are for steam or electrical machinery, but this vilayet is not yet ripe for anything of the kind. We are, I trust, only marking time until we have a railway to the coast, when, perhaps, the face of things will change.

"I should make one single exception to this charge of universal apathy among the propertied class—that of an Armenian merchant who has erected in Aleppo a flour mill worked by petroleum; but I must add that it meets with every kind of opposition from the other millowners, and is now working under police protection." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,970.*)

British Trade Abroad.

Adana.—The British Vice-Consul at Adana reports that British trade is gradually assuming a most satisfactory state, having increased and gained strength during the past few years very considerably. British merchants, as well as native traders, consult the Vice-Consulate more and more, the latter being anxious to deal with the United Kingdom. Bad debts, also, are considerably reduced, so that British merchants have more confidence. It is noteworthy that the study of the English language is greatly increasing, nearly every young merchant now learning it.

These facts are important, and it is to be hoped that British manufacturers and merchants will take them to heart, acting vigorously and sending round competent travellers to push trade still further.

The branches of the Ottoman Bank at Adana and Mersina are invaluable channels for all financial operations. The managers would give useful and reliable information on the financial status of local merchants or other matters.

The Vice-Consul adds:—"I hope to visit England on leave of absence shortly, when I shall with pleasure visit the leading commercial centres, if desired, and, in connection with local Chambers of Commerce, communicate with those gentlemen who may care personally to enquire as to the trade of these parts.

"Having quite recently performed a journey of some 1,500 miles on horseback, visiting some of the chief commercial towns of Central Asia Minor, I trust that I may be in a position to be of service in the information I give." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,970.*)

Nuremberg.—The British Vice-Consul at Nuremberg, in his recent report, states that the attention of British manufacturers and exporters cannot too often be called to the following matter, a subject which has often been mentioned and which is of the greatest importance.

The Consulates very frequently receive circulars, price lists and catalogues for distribution to those interested in the respective trades. Instead of being printed in the German language, with metric measures, sizes and quotations in German currency f.o.b. German ports, or even better, duty paid, this printed matter is nearly in every case utterly valueless, being sent in the English language with British measures, weights and currency.

American manufacturers have long recognised the importance of this matter, and they are cultivating a large competitive trade in the south of Germany, especially in machinery, tools, boots, and shoes. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,971.*)

TRADE OF CAPE COLONY (Two Months).

With reference to the statement on pp. 310-11 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 14th May, the "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette," of 28th April, publishes statistics showing the value of the trade of Cape Colony for the two months ended 28th February, 1903, as compared with the corresponding period of 1902. The following tables show the total value of the imports and exports, including transit trade in both cases, of the principal and other articles into and from the Colony during the periods above-mentioned:—

Imports into Cape Colony.

Principal and other Articles.	Two Months ended 28th February, 1902.	Two Months ended 28th February, 1903.
Provisions of all kinds (<i>includes butter, cheese, oil, coffee, meat, sugar, and tea</i>) ...	£ 580,000	£ 736,000
Metals and metal manufactures (<i>includes iron, lead, machinery and hardware</i>) ...	424,000	631,000
Haberdashery and millinery ...	310,000	426,000
Cotton manufactures ...	296,000	427,000
Provisions, oilman stores, &c. (<i>n.o.d.</i>) ...	296,000	249,000
Leather and leather manufactures (<i>includes boots and shoes, and saddlery and harness</i>) ...	233,000	340,000
Wearing apparel (<i>includes hats</i>) ...	206,000	371,000
Wood, and manufactures of (<i>includes furniture and cabinetware</i>) ...	224,000	415,000
Corn and grain, &c. (<i>flour, maize, oats, wheat, and rice</i>) ...	211,000	385,000
Alcoholic beverages (<i>includes wine, beer, and spirits</i>) ...	151,000	149,000
Tobacco of all sorts ...	137,000	68,000
Stationery (<i>includes books</i>) ...	115,000	159,000
Woollen manufactures ...	86,000	158,000
Coal, coke and patent fuel ...	92,000	44,000
Drugs and chemicals ...	58,000	84,000
Carriages and other wheeled vehicles ...	54,000	102,000
Soap and candles ...	46,000	42,000
Cocoa and chocolate and confectionery ...	47,000	43,000
Jewellery and plated ware (<i>including clocks and watches</i>) ...	24,000	39,000
Pipes, iron and earthen ...	20,000	19,000
Bags, all sorts ...	10,000	20,000
Linen manufactures ...	18,000	24,000
Earthenware and crockery ...	20,000	39,000
Oil, mineral ...	25,000	34,000
Agricultural implements ...	19,000	58,000
Cement ...	18,000	25,000
Paints and colours ...	15,000	27,000
Dynamite and blasting compounds ...	9,000	15,000
All other articles of merchandise ...	585,000	1,043,000
Total merchandise ...	£ 4,829,000	£ 6,172,000
Articles imported for the Colonial Government ...	361,000	355,000
Specie ...	21,000	18,000
Grand total, imports ...	£ 4,711,000	£ 6,545,000

NOTE.—The official figures of imports into Cape Colony are exclusive of imports by the Imperial Government, but it may be noted that military supplies were partly contracted for on the spot.

*Trade of Cape Colony (Two Months).***Exports from Cape Colony.**

Principal and other Articles.	Two Months ended 28th February, 1902.	Two Months ended 28th February, 1903.
	£	£
Diamonds	687,000	818,000
Wool (washed, scoured, and in the grease) ...	339,000	327,000
Ostrich feathers	159,000	118,000
Hair, Angora	135,000	55,000
Gold (raw)	165,000	1,598,000
Hides and skins	65,000	71,000
Copper ore... ..	58,000	—
All other articles of merchandise	32,000	38,000
Total merchandise	£ 1,640,000	3,020,000
Imported goods, re-exported	49,000	79,000
Specie	50,000	1,086,000
Grand total, exports	£ 1,739,000	4,185,000

MONAZITIC SAND IN BRAZIL.

Referring to the article on p. 70 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 9th April, a copy of a memorandum from H.M. Consul at Bahia has been received at the Board of Trade from the Foreign Office, giving particulars of the original concession granted by the Government of the State of Bahia to an American citizen, for exclusive mining rights for 20 years from 1899 over 4,851 metres of foreshore near the town of Prado. It is under this concession that all the monazitic sand hitherto exported from Brazil appears to have been obtained.

The concession of 31st December, 1901, alluded to in the article above referred to, was for mining rights on the whole foreshore of Brazil with the exception of the aforesaid 4,851 metres, and it appears that some good sand had been exported under it from the town of Alcobaca, in the State of Bahia a few miles south of Prado, before it fell through.

No notice of the expected call for tenders for the concession to work monazitic sand in the State of Espirito Santo, has yet been received.

A copy of the memorandum referred to in the first paragraph above may be seen by those interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, and it may be added that a sample of monazitic sand (hand-washed) from the district of Prado, and also one from the district of Alcobaca, received from H.M. Consul at Bahia, have been forwarded to the Imperial Institute for examination.

TRADE OF NATAL (FIRST QUARTER OF 1903).

With reference to the notice on pp. 478-80 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 5th March last, the following information relating to the value of the trade of Natal for the quarter ended 31st March, 1903, as compared with the corresponding period of 1902, is based on statistics published in a supplement to the "Natal Government Gazette" for 21st April.

Imports.

The following table shows the value of the total imports of the principal categories of merchandise into Natal (by sea) in the three months ended 31st March, 1902 and 1903, distinguishing Government stores and railway material and bullion and specie:—

Articles.	Three Months ended 31st March.	
	1902.	1903.
Apparel, haberdashery, &c. (<i>includes millinery, hats, hosiery, slops, &c.</i>)	£ 412,000	£ 583,000
Metals and manufactures (<i>includes agricultural implements, bicycles, hardware, ironmongery, machinery, sewing machines, &c.</i>)	344,000	557,000
Provisions, exclusive of corn and dairy products (<i>includes coffee, cocoa, confectionery, lard, meats, frozen and preserved, jams, fish, hams and bacon, sugar, tea, vegetables, farinaceous foods, fruits, condiments, salt, &c.</i>)	412,000	506,000
Corn and grain (<i>includes rice</i>)	130,000	314,000
Wood and manufactures (<i>includes cabinet and upholstery ware</i>)	97,000	285,000
Leather and manufactures (<i>includes saddlery</i>)	143,000	220,000
Dairy products (<i>includes butter and margarine, eggs, cheese, condensed milk and ghee</i>)	172,000	179,000
Beverages (<i>includes aerated waters, ale, spirits and wine</i>)	117,000	124,000
Live animals	82,000	122,000
Woollen manufactures	32,000	76,000
Stationery (<i>includes books and paper of all kinds</i>)	44,000	68,000
Oilman's stores (<i>includes oils and paints</i>)	49,000	65,000
Cotton manufactures	60,000	64,000
Forage	8,000	54,000
Drugs and chemicals	43,000	45,000
Soap and candles	27,000	33,000
Tobacco, raw and manufactured... ..	80,000	27,000
Carriages and carts	10,000	26,000
Instruments, musical and mathematical	19,000	24,000
Electrical fittings	12,000	21,000
Railway and tramway material	25,000	20,000
Earthen, china and stone ware, &c.	11,000	19,000
Jewellery and plated ware (<i>includes clocks and watches</i>)	23,000	18,000
Cement	12,000	14,000
Toys and fancy ware	7,000	13,000
Bags of all kinds	8,000	5,000
Linen manufactures	1,000	5,000
Other articles of merchandise (<i>including goods by foreign parcels post</i>)	256,000	330,000
Total merchandise	£ 2,586,000	£ 3,767,000
Government stores and railway material	327,000	330,000
Stores for Transvaal Government and Repatriation Department	—	33,000
Bullion and specie... ..	265,000	10,000
Imported as merchandise, but delivered free of duty for military purposes	39,000	6,000
Grand total	£ 3,217,000	£ 4,146,000

*Trade of Natal (First Quarter of 1903).***Exports.**

The following table shows the values of the exports of Colonial produce by sea from Natal during the three months ended 31st March, 1902 and 1903:—

Articles.	Three Months ended 31st March.	
	1902.	1903.
	£	£
Coal (including bunker coal)	99,000	57,000
Wool (sheep's)	88,000	141,000
Sugar... ..	55,000	41,000
Bark	15,000	12,000
Hides and skins	10,000	7,000
Hair (Angora and horse)	4,000	9,000
Fruit, fresh	2,000	2,000
Tea	5,000	5,000
Tobacco	3,000	4,000
Beer	3,000	2,000
Matches	2,000	1,000
Other articles of Colonial produce	9,000	5,000
Total	295,000	286,000

FOREIGN TRADE OF COREA IN 1902.

A despatch dated 10th March last has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Seoul, enclosing statements showing the value of the foreign trade of Corea during each of the last five years, on which the following table is based:—

Foreign Trade of Corea, 1898-1902.

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	1,194,066	1,022,734	1,094,046	1,500,265	1,382,351
Exports—					
Merchandise	576,896	499,785	948,987	863,824	849,034
Gold	240,047	293,338	363,305	509,738	516,961
Total	816,943	793,123	1,307,292	1,373,562	1,365,995
Total foreign trade £	2,011,009	1,815,857	2,401,338	2,873,827	2,748,346

Compared with 1901, imports show a decrease of 117,914*l.* and exports of 7,567*l.* in 1902. The exportation of gold, however, is increasing in a marked manner; and if the figures of the preceding

Foreign Trade of Corea in 1902.

years are considered, the steady expansion of the foreign trade of Corea becomes evident.

The decrease in the importation of cotton goods (1902, 546,772*l.*, 1901, 643,808*l.*) is responsible for the major part of the falling-off in imports, some 100,000*l.* less having been imported in 1902 than in 1901. Woollen goods, metals, arms and ammunition, and articles of luxury, such as silk piece-goods, were also imported in smaller quantities. But, on the other hand, the progress made in the development of the country is shown in increased importation of bags and ropes for packing, machinery, and mining supplies, and railway plant and material.

Exports have undergone but a slight diminution in comparison with the previous 12 months. More than twice the quantity of ginseng (red) exported in 1901 was sent abroad in 1902, the figures being 122,304*l.* in 1902 as compared with 52,670*l.*; but, as was to be expected, all kinds of foodstuffs were exported in smaller quantities, with the exception of wheat and barley, owing to home requirements. The increased value of the hides and cattle exported, however, helped to redress the balance.

Taking the five years, 1898–1902, the average of the total foreign trade of Corea amounts to 2,370,075*l.*, while that for 1902 is 2,748,346*l.*, or 378,271*l.* more than the average. Imports from 1898 to 1902 average 1,238,692*l.*, so that the past year, with its total of 1,382,351*l.*, is 143,659*l.* to the good. Similarly with exports—the average for the period mentioned is 746,705*l.*, but 1902 shows 849,034*l.*, that is, 102,329*l.* more.

With regard to the balance of trade, the imports for the past five years exceed the exports by 536,547*l.*, a yearly average of 107,309*l.* This excess of imports is bound to continue until Corea's mineral wealth is more fully developed.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 315 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 14th May, on the subject of the surtax to be levied in Canada on goods imported from Germany, the Board of Trade have now received from the High Commissioner for Canada, a notification to the effect that "German goods purchased by an importer in Canada prior to the 17th April for immediate transportation are to be exempt from the surtax if imported before the 1st October."

**Surtax on
German goods.
Extension of
time for goods
purchased before
April 17th.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 9th April, 1903, containing a Customs By-law issued by the Department of Trade and Customs on 3rd April last, with regulations affecting the methylation of cotton-seed oil within the Commonwealth.

The By-law provides that the methylating substances which may be used for methylating cotton-seed oil shall be resin cod oil or whale oil in the proportion of not less than five per cent. to the quantity of cotton-seed oil to be methylated.

The present Customs By-law is to be read with the By-law which was published in the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" on 3rd December, 1901, a notice of which appeared on p. 168 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 23rd January, 1902.

TRANSVAAL.

With reference to the notice published on p. 263 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 7th May, relating to the suspension of duties on certain British South African articles imported into the Transvaal from and after 24th April, 1903, the Board have now received a copy of the "Transvaal Gazette" for 24th April, 1903, containing a Proclamation (No. 11 of 1903) suspending the duties on all articles, the growth, produce, or manufacture of Natal (except spirits and flour or wheaten meal, including pollard, manufactured from other than South African wheat) on importation into the Colony from and after 1st May, 1903.

RUSSIA.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the Russian Customs Department have notified, by a Circular dated 16th/29th April, that appliances for the use of firemen, consisting of specially made masks, with apparatus for the storage of compressed air, or for the purpose of pumping air under the masks while firemen are at work, are to be dutiable on importation into Russia under Section 167, point 2, of the Tariff, at the rate of 2 roubles 55 copecks per poud (16s. 9d. per cwt.). India-rubber or other hose through which the air may be conducted under the masks is to pay duty under the corresponding sections of the Tariff according to the material of which it is made.

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***RUSSIA—continued.**

A further Circular, dated 21st April/4th May, notifies that articles of tin and sheet iron painted or enamelled in resemblance of marble, oak, nut-wood, and other similar materials shall pay duty under Section 154, point 1, of the Tariff—"Conventional" rate, 3 roubles 37½ copecks per poud (1l. 2s. 2d. per cwt.).

NORWAY.

With reference to the notice which appeared at pp. 204—9 of the "Journal" for the 29th January last, relative to certain proposed changes in the Norwegian Customs Tariff, the Board of Trade are informed that the following is a complete list of the changes which have since been passed by the Storthing and which came into force on the 1st April:—

(NOTE.—Additions to headings and new headings are printed in italic type.)

Tariff No.	Classification.	Old Rates.	New Rates.	English Equivalents of New Rates.
		Kr. Ore.	Kr. Ore.	£ s. d.
59	Fire engines— <i>b. Others</i> Brushmakers' wares and brooms—	Free	(As machinery)	
73	1. Of rushes, twigs or other vegetable fibre, as well as metal brushes for boilers and engines 3. Of pigs' bristles or other hair, as well as of wire—	Kilog. 0 07	Kilog. 0 15	Cwt. 0 8 6
75	<i>a. In wood or metal...</i>	" 0 40	" 0 50	" 1 8 3
79	Carbide of calcium— <i>Carbide of silicium</i>	Free	Free	Free
83	Mushrooms, truffles, and other edible fungi <i>with the immediate wrappings</i> ...	Kilog. 1 00	Kilog. 0 60	Cwt. 1 13 11
	Animals, meat, &c.—			
	1. Living animals—			
89	<i>c. Horned cattle—</i> <i>Of a live weight of over 240 kilogs. ...</i> <i>Of a live weight from 240 kilogs. down to 150 kilogs. ...</i> <i>Of a live weight less than 150 kilogs. ...</i>	Kilog. 0 05 " 0 05 " 0 05	{ Kilog. } live } 0 05 wght. } Each 12 00 " 7 50	" 0 2 10 Each 0 13 4 " 0 8 4

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***NORWAY—continued.**

Tariff No.	Classification.	Old Rates.	New Rates.	English Equivalents of New Rates.
		Kr. Ore.	Kr. Ore.	£ s. d.
	It is noted under the heading of "Electrical apparatus" that <i>Cut-outs, safety apparatus, &c.</i> , are to be classed under "Machinery," and <i>Electrical meters, volt meters, ampère meters, wattmeters, galvanometers, and isolation meters</i> , under "Instruments."			
145	Fruits— 4. Fruits and fruit peel in sugar, candied, or preserved in brandy, preserves not otherwise provided for,* [excepting in hermetically closed receptacles], including immediate wrapping ...	Kilog. 0 75	The duty is to remain unchanged.	
	[*The words between brackets have been omitted.]			
	Gums and resins—			
182	5. India-rubber and gutta-percha, worked : (c) Galoshes and other foot-gear ...	" 0 80	Kilog. 1 00	Cwt. 2 16 6
	Gloves and mittens, which cannot be considered as raw woollen tricotage or as furriers' work :—			
190	1. Wholly of silk ...	" 10 00	" 12 00	" 33 17 0
191	2. Of half silk, or wholly or partly of skin, whether sewn or only cut out ...	" 6 00	" 8 00	" 22 11 8
	Vegetables and kitchen garden produce, edible—			
	2. Prepared in hermetically closed or air-tight receptacles, of metal, glass, or earthenware, including the immediate wrapping—			
	a. Asparagus, tomatoes, and artichokes ...	} Kilog. 0 60 }	Kilog. 0 40	Cwt. 1 2 7
	b. Other kinds ...		" 0 25	" 0 14 1½
206	3. Other, including dried vegetables ...	Kilog. 0 05	The duty is to remain unchanged.	

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***NORWAY—continued.**

Tariff No.	Classification.	Old Rates.	New Rates.	English Equivalents of New Rates.
		Kr. Ore.	Kr. Ore.	£ s. d.
	Instruments—			
	I. Musical—			
215	a. Pianos—			
	1. Grand	Each 100 00	Each 150 00	Each 8 6 8
216	2. Square or upright ...	„ 60 00	„ 90 00	„ 5 0 0
	II. Other instruments—			
	a. Technical apparatus for measuring and controlling, such as manometers, tachometers, indicators, water gauges, gas meters, electrical meters, volt-meters, ampère meters, watt meters, galvanometers, and isolation meters	Dutiable as manufactures of the component material	Ad val. 10 %	Ad val. 10 %
	b. Other instruments not specially mentioned ...	Ditto.	Dutiable as manufactures of the component material	
	Earth and clay, and manufactures thereof—			
243	11. Emery and imitations thereof for polishing purposes, such as carborundum, electrite, &c., either moulded or stamped ...	Kilog. 0 10	The duty is to remain unaltered.	
255	Telescopes and microscopes, as well as photographic hand cameras with fixed lenses, with or without cases, including weight of the immediate packing ...	„ 2 00	The duty is to remain unchanged.	
357	Comestibles in hermetically sealed or in air-tight receptacles. [This heading has been struck out.]			
	Metals—			
	II. Manufactures of metals—			
	C. Iron—			
398	6. Nails and nails of iron wire, tenter and other hooks, less than 45 mm. in length, as well as shoemakers' brads	„ 0 04	Kilog. 0 10	Cwt. 0 5 8

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.*NORWAY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Classification.	Old Rates.	New Rates.	English Equivalents of New Rates.
	Metals—C. Iron— <i>cont.</i>	Kr. Ore.	Kr. Ore.	£ s. d.
399	7. Nails and nails of iron wire, tenter and other hooks, of a length of 45 mm. and more, as well as horse-shoe and other nails.	Kilog. 0 02	Kilog. 0 03	Cwt. 0 1 8½
403	11. [The following articles have been added to this heading]— “Pumps, air-ventilators, balusters, and trellis-work”	„ 0 05	The duty is to remain unchanged.	
	12. Bedsteads ... The note to No. 413 is amended to read as follows— NOTE. — Knives wherein are pen-knife blades shall be considered as pen-knives. As pen-knife blades shall be considered also implements of such a form as can easily be transformed into pen-knife blades.	„ 0 05	Kilog. 0 10	Cwt. 0 5 7½
	Oils—			
	1. Fats—			
462	(2) Butter colouring ...	„ 0 04	„ 0 06	„ 0 3 4½
470	Cheese rennet, normal, and cheese colouring ...	„ 0 04	„ 0 06	„ 0 3 4½
	Paper and manufactures thereof—			
477	6. b. Crochet, knitting, embroidery, and similar patterns, pattern-books, &c., paper bags, and the like, so far as not subjected to a higher duty, frames, &c. ...	„ 0 15	The duty is to remain unchanged	
479	d. Blank forms, vignettes, labels, introduction cards, advertisements, parlour games, and congratulation cards, also <i>serviettes</i> and bags, if mounted with lithographs, prints, &c.	„ 0 50	„	„

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

NORWAY—continued.

Tariff No.	Classification.	Old Rates.	New Rates.	English Equivalents of New Rates.
		Kr. Ore.	Kr. Ore.	£ s. d.
	Skins and hides—			
	B. Not covered with hair—			
	III. Manufactured—			
	2. Saddlers' wares, not otherwise mentioned—			
	(a) With fittings of gilt, silvered, or plated work, or of vulcanite ...	Not specially tarified	Kilog. 2 00	Cwt. 5 2 11
	C. With hair or feathers, for peltries—			
	(a) Undressed—			
	Black fox and blue fox, marten, and otter skins, have been transferred to sub-section (1) of this number from sub-section (2), thus being made free of duty ...	Kilog. 2 00	Free	Free
	Stone and manufactures thereof—			
572	6. Cement ...	100 kilo. 0 20	100 kilo. 0 50	Cwt. 1 8 3
573	7a. Cement castings and moulds ...	0 50	1 00	" 2 16 6
601	Tea ...	Kilog. 2 00	The duty is to remain unchanged.	
	The tare rates for tea have been amended as follows—			
	On cases (the gross weight of which does not exceed 50 kilogs.):—			
	Lined with lead, 22 % [former rate 25 %]			
	Other, 16 % [former rate 16 %]			
	Tobacco—			
	Tobacco sauce ...	Not previously specified	Kilog. 0 55	Cwt. 1 11 1
	Watches—			
641	(1) Ladies' and other watches, including pocket chronometers—			
	a. In gold cases ...	Each 1 00	Each 5 00	Each 0 5 7
	b. In silver cases ...	" 1 00	" 2 00	" 0 2 3
	c. In cases of other metals ...	" 1 00	" 1 00	" 0 1 1
643	(5) Wooden clock cases ...	As "manufactures of wood."	Kilog. 0 60	Cwt. 1 13 11

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SERVIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of a circular which has been addressed by the Servian Minister of Finance to the Customs Authorities, notifying that "Filling Cement" (liquid caoutchouc dissolved with benzine), imported into Servia, shall be dutiable under No. 194 of the Customs Tariff at the rate of 20 dinars per 100 kilogs. (8s. 2d. per cwt.).

**Customs
Treatment of
"Filling Cement."**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a United States Treasury Circular, dated 24th April, which contains regulations issued under a recent Act of the United States Legislature amending the provisions of paragraph 473 of the Tariff Act of 1897 relating to the importation of animals for breeding purposes.

**Animals for
Breeding
Purposes.**

These regulations may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W.

CUBA.

The Board of Trade have received information through the Foreign Office to the effect that the Cuban Customs Authorities have been instructed by their Government that no Consular certificates are required for goods shipped from the United Kingdom to Cuba.

**Consular
Invoices.**

BRAZIL.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a dispatch from H.M. Minister in Brazil stating that a Bill to revise the Brazilian Customs Regulations was passed by the House of Deputies in December last, and will probably come before the Senate in June or July next. Should the measure be then voted, as is understood to be not improbable, it will come into operation fifty days after its publication in the Official Gazette in so far as all Brazilian Consulates are concerned, with the exception of those in India and New Zealand where a term of 60 days will be allowed.

The following gives the substance of the principal provisions of the Bill :—

One of the Consular invoices, hitherto necessary, is to be abolished, thus reducing the number required to three, the one abolished being that which, under the present regulations, accompanies the cargo and is delivered by the captain to the Customs. By this

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

alteration all responsibility of the captains of trading vessels as regards invoices ceases and they can load and land goods without reference to them. The other three Consular invoices are to be retained as absolutely necessary for Customs and statistical purposes.

The legalisation of Consular invoices is to be obtainable at the Brazilian Consulate or Consular Agency either at the port of shipment or at the place from which the merchandise is forwarded.

No Consular invoice will be necessary for samples up to the value of 10*l.* sterling.

The penalties for trivial errors in nomenclature are to be abolished, and a liberal allowance is to be made for divergencies in weight and quality between the Consular invoice and the merchandise actually imported.

When goods pay duty on real net weight, the gross weight and the real weight of the goods exclusive of all receptacles, outer or inner, in which they are packed, is to be stated. When duty on gross weight is collected, the statement of the gross weight is to suffice.

PORTO RICO.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that new regulations governing the importation of food products into Porto Rico have been issued by the Board of Health of that island, and that they will come into force on the 1st July next.

Copy of the actual regulations has not yet been received, but the Board understand that one of the leading features thereof is the necessity of correctly marking in Spanish the nature and quality of all food supplies. It is not intended to require the specification of purely trade names, but every label must be of such a nature that there can be no deception of the purchaser. All articles sold as "pure" must strictly conform to the standards of the Board of Health, and all articles of a compound or artificial nature must be plainly marked in such a way as to indicate their real nature.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of a copy of a recent issue of the Argentine "Boletín Oficial," containing the text of a new law relating to the Consular legalization of Bills of Lading for merchandise destined for Argentine ports. The following is a translation of the principal provisions of the law:—

Article 1.—The legalization of Bills of Lading for cargoes destined for ports of the Republic must be made by Consuls-General, Consuls, and Vice-Consuls in triplicate, and a stamp to the value of one peso is to be affixed to the first copy, and one of 50 centavos to the second and third copies. These three copies

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

shall be considered as original documents, and shall be delivered duly legalized, signed, and sealed by the Consular Agents to the parties concerned.

Article 2.—Consuls-General, Consuls, and Vice-Consuls will, in addition, require copies of the Bills of Lading and manifests which they legalize. It shall be stated in these copies that they are for the official use of the Consuls and no charge will be made for them.

Article 3.—Without prejudice to the three copies of the Bills of Lading referred to in Article 1, Consuls-General, Consuls, and Vice-Consuls shall legalize as many copies as may be asked for by the parties concerned, marking each one "Copy of the three originals made in accordance with Law No. 2,867 of the 30th November, 1891." Each copy shall bear a stamp of 50 centavos, and shall be sealed and signed by the Consular Agents in the usual form.

Article 5.—The Decree of the 4th August, 1900, is confirmed, by which no document is to be considered legalized unless it bears the prescribed stamps.

VENEZUELA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information, through the

**Abolition of
Import Duty on
certain kinds
of Logs.**

Foreign Office, to the effect that, by a Presidential Decree of the 23rd April, the import duty of 5 centimes per kilog. leviable on logs of pitch pine and other woods of more than 25 centimetres in thickness has been abolished.

COLOMBIA.

With reference to the notice which appeared at pp. 218—9 of the

**Import Duty
on certain
Dutiable
Merchandise,
where the Duty
is payable in
Silver.**

"Board of Trade Journal" of the 30th April, relative to the general increase of the import duties leviable in Colombia, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, copy and translation of a Decree dated the 20th February, providing that, in those Custom-houses of the Republic where import duties are payable in silver coin '835 fine, merchandise

included in Class I. of the Tariff and not exempted from payment by a special legal provision, shall pay duty at the rate of 2 centavos per kilogramme.

The Board of Trade have also received from the same source a

**Tariff of
Import Duties.**

translation of the complete Tariff of import duties at present leviable in Colombia, which Tariff has been prepared and published by

order of the Colombian Government.

This Tariff may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

CAPE COLONY.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of the 28th April, publishes a revised tariff of charges leviable by the Table Bay Harbour Board for the landing, sorting, delivery &c., of cargo, to take effect from 1st May. The "Gazette" containing the rates may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

SWITZERLAND.

With reference to the notices which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" for August, 1899, p. 211, and September, 1899, pp. 260-1, relative to the nationalisation of Swiss railways, despatches have been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Minister at Berne, from which it appears that of the five great trunk lines in question, the purchase of three was successfully negotiated by the State about the end of 1901, viz., the "Central Suisse," the "Nord Est," and the "Union Suisse." The purchase of the Jura-Simplon Railway has now recently been effected, and on the 1st May, 1903, the whole concern was taken over by the Federal Government. With regard to the St. Gothard Company, which is the only line remaining to be taken over, it is understood that, although this is not actually due to occur till 1909, the existing concession will be denounced next year, and the purchase price fixed on the basis of the average returns of the ten years preceding the denunciation, i.e., from 1894 to 1904.

Work on the Simplon tunnel, it is said, is being steadily pushed forward, but owing to unforeseen physical difficulties encountered by the contractors, it is not expected to be completed, at earliest, before the summer of 1905.

As regards the competing schemes of lines of future access to the tunnel, the Federal Government have granted a concession for the Swiss portion of the proposed line from Frasné to Vallorbe, and it is hoped that the French will follow suit. There appears to be a strong likelihood of additional feeders to the tunnel traffic coming into existence, the Federal Council having made a formal declaration that, in their opinion, equal facilities should be accorded by the Confederation to any other line of access to the tunnel, such as the proposed and well-supported route *via* La Faucille, or the scheme for the piercing of the proposed Loetschberg tunnel through the Bernese Oberland Range, for which the Canton of Berne has already voted nearly 20,000,000 francs.

*Shipping and Transport.***SPAIN.**

The British Vice-Consul at Gijon in his report for 1902 states that the Northern Railway Company increased their rates during the year by 1 peseta 5 c. per ton from the coal districts to the port of Avilés, which, together with the continued scarcity of waggons, aggravated the slackness of trade. The want of waggons made the fulfilment of engagements uncertain, and caused ruinously long turns for the steamers waiting for their cargoes. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,973.*)

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.**AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.**

The Board of Trade have received from the office of the Agent-General for Queensland a communication stating that the gold returns of that State for the month of April last were as follows, the corresponding figures for April, 1902, being added for purposes of comparison :—

		April, 1902.	April, 1903.
Ore crushed	... ..	84,400 tons	71,500 tons
Total yield	... ..	67,200 ounces	67,600 ounces

A communication has also been received from the office of the Agent-General for Western Australia stating that the crushing returns for the month of April, 1903, for all gold mining companies in the State are as follows, the figures for April, 1902, being added for the purposes of comparison :—

		April, 1902.	April, 1903.
Ore treated	... ..	174,880 tons	142,906 tons
Yield of gold	... ..	201,885 ozs.	159,225 ozs.
Average yield per ton...	... ..	1 oz. 3 dwt. 2 grs.	1 oz. 2 dwt. 6 grs.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

RUSSIA--POLAND.

According to official statistics published in the "Journal" of the Russian Finance Ministry, the total production of coal in the Dombrovo Basin in 1902 amounted to 258,169,482 pounds (4,232,287 metric tons), as compared with 252,566,787 pounds (4,140,439 metric tons) during 1901, and 158,830,830 pounds (2,607,784 metric tons) in 1891.

It is estimated that 14·8 per cent. of this is consumed by the railways, 12·5 per cent. by the various mineral industries, 7·7 per cent. by metallurgical works, 11 per cent. by sugar refineries, 32·38 per cent. by other industrial establishments, and finally, 21·5 per cent. for domestic use.

Brown coal was also produced by the Dombrovo collieries to the amount of 89,600 metric tons in 1902, as against 104,065 metric tons in 1901.

SPAIN.

The Acting British Consul at Corunna, in his report for the year 1902, writes as follows with regard to the

**Mineral Wealth
of Galicia and
Incio.**

mineral wealth of that district:—

"In the report for 1901, the subject of the mineral wealth of Galicia and district was treated at length, and nothing of much importance can be added under this heading during 1902.

"It is alleged that if certain plans now being discussed, with reference to transport facilities were carried out and Corunna made a mineral shipping port, one might hope to see a great future before it.

"Much has been written respecting the mineral wealth in Incio, in the province of Lugo, and owing to the many enquiries I have received on this subject, I recommend such persons as may be interested to refer to the report on Vivero included in the previous report." (*Annual Series*, 2,771.)

"The mines 'Maria Antonia,' 'Benigna,' 'Cotillo,' and 'Trinidad,' close to the sea, are reported as being for sale.

**Warning to
British Firms.**

"I take this opportunity of warning British firms interested in mines, to be most careful when negotiating with certain so-called mine owners in this district." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,973.)

The British Vice-Consul at Marin reports that the province of Pontevedra is rich in minerals and mineral springs. There are more than 100 mines registered for iron, tin, and wolfram. Iron is to be found in the district of Sangenfo, tin in Labin, and wolfram

**Mineral Wealth
of Pontevedra.**

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

in Carbia. Owing, however, to the want of railways these mines cannot be worked, although plans for a railway from Pontevedra to Monforte, passing through the above-mentioned districts, so as to be in touch with the port of Corunna, are under consideration. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,973.*)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

According to the "Bulletin" of the American Iron and Steel Association of 10th May, the production of iron and steel wire rods in the United States in 1902 amounted to 1,574,393 gross tons (of 2,240 lbs.), against 1,365,934 tons in 1901, 846,291 tons in 1900, 1,036,398 tons in 1899, and 1,071,683 tons in 1898, showing an increase of 208,459 tons, or over 15 per cent., in 1902 as compared with 1901. Of the total production in 1902, 1,574,187 tons were steel and 206 tons were iron rods.

The production of wire nails in the United States in 1902 amounted to 10,982,246 kegs of 100 lbs. as compared with 9,803,822 kegs. in 1901, an increase of 1,178,424 kegs, or over 12 per cent. In 1900 the production amounted to 7,233,979 kegs, in 1899 to 7,618,130 kegs, in 1898 to 7,418,475 kegs, in 1897 to 8,997,245 kegs, in 1896 to 4,719,860 kegs, and in 1895 to 5,841,403 kegs. The wire nails produced in 1902 were made by 62 works, as compared with 61 in 1901. The production in 1902 was greatly in excess of that of any preceding year. Almost all the wire nails produced in 1902 were made of steel.

CHINA.

H.M. Consul at Hankow reports that antimony ore from Hunan is a growing export, but iron ore sent from the Government mines to Moji has, like lead ore partly dealt with at Hankow, fallen off. A good part of the iron ore returns from Japan in the shape of unmanufactured iron, a new foreign import, valued this year at 4,498l. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,969.*)

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.

In his report for 1902, H.M. Consul at Batavia states that British cotton goods continue to hold their own in Java, although in the lower qualities of grey drills, Dutch manufacturers have the upper hand. Imports of yarn show a slight increase over those of the previous year, British and Dutch makes showing almost the same figures. The principal supplies, however, come *via* Singapore, and although no official figures are obtainable, it is probable that the greater part is from India. Efforts have been made during the year to introduce Japanese makes, but so far with little success. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,974.*)

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 23rd May were as follow:—

Wheat	...	...	...	...	27s. 10d.
Barley	...	...	...	...	23s. 7d.
Oats	...	...	...	...	18s. 5d.

For further particulars see p. 424.

A statement is published on p. 425, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 23rd May, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.

H.M. Consul at Batavia reports that the exports of cinchona bark from Java, almost the whole of which find their way to Holland, were heavier than ever in 1902. Taking this circumstance into consideration, prices obtained were fairly satisfactory, although the average unit price for the 75,000 bales sold at the ten Amsterdam auctions was only 6·90 c. ($1\frac{1}{2}d.$), as compared with 8·44 c. ($1\frac{7}{8}d.$) average in 1901. The 22,000 bales sold at the 12 London auctions fetched an average unit price of $1\frac{3}{4}d.$, as compared with $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ in 1901.

A combination of Java cinchona planters, controlling more than one-third of the total area under cinchona, came to an arrangement in September, 1902, to limit the unit selling price of the bark in Holland up to the end of March next year to 6 c. ($1\frac{1}{2}d.$), with a

Agriculture.

view to preventing temporary over-supply in Europe and consequent low prices, and they have now extended the period for which this limit is in force till the end of 1903. Seeing that Java produces probably 75 per cent. or more of the world's supply, this measure should, if consistently carried out, result in a higher scale of prices both for bark and quinine. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,974.*)

CHINA.

H.M. Consul at Hankow, in his recent report, states that foreign dealers in sesamum seed now clean it by machinery. The low exchange enables the China product to compete with the Indian. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,969.*)

MISCELLANEOUS.**UNITED KINGDOM.**

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 21st May was
Cotton Statistics. 62,075 and the number imported during the 21 weeks ended the 21st May was 1,981,854.

As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 21st May, 6,105 bales, and for the 21 weeks, 196,602.

For further details see p. 424.

NATAL.

With reference to the announcement which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 23rd April, p. 178, respecting the appointment of a Trade Commission in Natal to enquire into and obtain information as to the volume of trade which is likely to pass through the several ports of South Africa for the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, the "Natal Government Gazette" of 28th April contains the report of the Commission as regards Transvaal trade, it being decided that there was nothing to justify a visit to the Orange River Colony.

The substance of the report is mainly that if a sufficient labour supply can be had and maintained, not only for the mines but for all other purposes, the probable traffic in five years' time will be about 300,000 tons per month, to be equally divided between the three railway systems of the country.

Miscellaneous.

The Commissioners give it as their opinion that for the next two or three years the traffic requirements of the Transvaal will not exceed 50,000 tons per month, but that after that time a great mining and industrial development will ensue.

The "Gazette," containing the full text of the report, may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

NORWAY.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a report by H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, on the recent cod-fishery season on the Norwegian Coast.

In the course of his report H.M. Consul-General remarks that the season opened with little promise, being far advanced before the first fish appeared on the banks, and Lofoten's total catch up to the middle of March was only half a million fish. A fortnight, however, showed a total of 4,300,000, and by the 30th April the number had risen to 13½ millions.

H.M. Consul-General states that the most curious point about the fisheries this year was the poverty of the livers in oil. From nearly 14 millions of fish there were got only 614 hectolitres of medicinal oil, and 1,130 hectolitres of liver for other oil, as against the 9,628 and 2,557 hectolitres respectively procured from last year's 14,300,000 fish.

The financial result was about 3½ millions of kroner (183,654*l.*) to be divided among 21,600 men—that is kr. 151 (8*l.* 6*s.*) per head, as against kr. 190 (10*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*) for the previous season.

The following table shows the results up to the end of April as compared with last year. At the date of the report (13th May), further good returns were expected from Finmarken, which would, it was anticipated, make the 1903 figures in excess of 1902 :—

District.						1902.	1903.
						No. of Fish Caught.	No. of Fish Caught.
Finmarken	...	...	...	...	...	3,776,000	1,915,000
Tromsø	...	...	...	...	...	4,759,000	3,915,000
Lofoten	...	...	...	...	...	14,800,000	13,700,000
Nordland (other parts)	...	...	...	...	...	4,445,000	5,790,000
Trøndelagen	...	...	...	...	...	2,825,000	3,260,000
Romsdal	...	...	...	...	...	6,842,000	7,923,000
West Coast	...	...	...	...	...	525,000	475,000
Total	..	...	...	...	...	37,472,000	36,978,000

REPORTS OF BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Newcastle.—The annual meeting of the Newcastle and Gateshead Chamber of Commerce was held at noon on the 18th May, in the Guildhall, Newcastle.

The President, in moving the adoption of the report, stated that the Secretary of the Paris Chamber had asked him whether that Chamber should come down and pay the Newcastle and Gateshead Chamber a visit with a view to an exchange of views and a closer union. He (the speaker) thought it would make for friendship and goodwill, and he hoped that the Council would take that into consideration and attempt, as the summer progressed, to approach the Paris Chamber and ask it to pay them a visit in Newcastle.

Referring to the question of trade disputes, the President suggested that when differences arose they should not be permitted to reach the stage of strikes or lock-outs. The Chambers should intervene, not for the purpose of arbitration, but simply to get the parties together for the discussion of grievances, and to endeavour to reconcile their differences.

The monthly meeting of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce was held in the Exchange recently, Mr. G. C. Hassell presiding. It was agreed that general meetings of the members of the Chamber be held at intervals for the purpose of discussing any interesting questions affecting the trade of the district. It was also agreed to endeavour to send two delegates to the International Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at Montreal in August next.

The question of publishing a journal of the Chamber of Commerce was considered, and it was agreed to publish one quarterly.

Wolverhampton.—The annual meeting of the Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce was held on 20th May. Mr. E. D. Crane, the Chairman, in moving the adoption of the annual report reviewed the trade of the year, which he believed established almost a record.

Mr. Meynell, in seconding the motion, referred to the Colonial Secretary's speech regarding preferential tariffs, and expressed a hope that this question would be dealt with on its merit and free from political bias.

Dundee.—At a special meeting of the Dundee Chamber of Commerce, held on the 23rd May, for the purpose of appointing a representative to the Committee of Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, Lord Provost Barrie, who was re-elected to represent Dundee in this capacity, made an interesting statement regarding the progress made by Lloyd's, in course of which he remarked that, whereas in 1887 a total of 594 steel vessels, measuring 961,423 tons, were classed at Lloyd's, they had in 1902, 5,931 vessels built of steel, measuring over 13,000,000 tons. He also alluded to the favour in which Dundee built ships were held.

In reply to a criticism by Mr. Leitch, Lord Provost Barrie upheld the fees charged at Lloyd's, which had been reduced for surveys and for repairs, and were, he stated, not excessive.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 21 Weeks ended 21st May, 1903.

	Week ended 21st May, 1903.	21 Weeks ended 21st May, 1903.	Week ended 21st May, 1903.	21 weeks ended 21st May, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	26,383	1,551,981	1,715	94,204
Brasilian	8,238	105,322	544	19,475
East Indian	23,440	78,345	1,827	16,176
Egyptian	3,646	229,356	1,958	62,774
Miscellaneous	373	21,850	61	3,973
Total	62,075	1,981,854	6,105	196,602

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 23rd May, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

		Average Price.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
Week ended 23rd May, 1903		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Corresponding week in—							
1896		25	4	21	5	14	10
1897		28	2	21	3	17	10
1898		47	9	26	5	21	5
1899		25	2	23	8	17	8
1900		25	5	23	11	18	2
1901		27	7	24	1	19	8
1902		31	6	25	4	22	6

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 23rd May, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 23rd May, 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	11,636	10,269
Sheep and lambs	"	6,627	5,919
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	552	894
Fresh meat :—			
Beef... ..	Cwts.	72,498	87,843
Mutton	"	33,475	93,400
Pork	"	9,926	6,900
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	76,656	109,769
Beef	"	4,304	4,008
Hams	"	14,526	29,361
Pork	"	4,080	8,029
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	12,277	12,824
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	4,138	16,258
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	67,164	78,942
Margarine	"	18,098	16,595
Cheese	"	33,784	27,802
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	2
" cream	"	135	68
" condensed	"	17,647	18,296
" preserved, other kinds	"	188	91
Eggs	Grt. Hndr.	464,250	344,707
Poultry and game	Value £	15,562	11,178
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	2,742	3,552
Lard	"	33,158	32,052
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,965,523	1,830,697
Wheat-meal and flour	"	472,969	362,674
Barley	"	332,080	258,763
Oats	"	441,461	342,355
Peas	"	74,088	52,685
Beans	"	11,255	12,040
Maize or Indian corn	"	869,629	1,286,066
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	20,192	16,942
Apricots and peaches	"	75	865
Bananas	Bunches.	69,709	34,126
Cherries	Cwts.	1,213	6,755
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	155	109
Grapes	"	216	426
Lemons	"	13,727	16,823
Oranges	"	162,225	122,926
Pears	"	116	18
Plums	"	—	—
Strawberries	"	136	439
Unenumerated	"	694	2,067
Hay	Tons.	2,610	8,471
Straw	"	1,576	1,806
Hops	Cwts.	345	412
Locust beans... ..	"	110	9,840
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	280,784	115,671
Potatoes	Cwts.	211,644	161,002
Tomatoes	"	23,850	12,845
Unenumerated	Value £	10,778	12,047
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	1,235	2,306
Preserved by canning	"	8,291	7,062

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of April, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that Volume I of the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1902, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 11d. at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country). The second volume will contain details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 16th May:—State of the Labour Market in April; Workmen's Co-operative Productive Societies; the Railway Dispute in Victoria (Australia); Factories and Shops Law of Victoria—Report of Royal Commission; Labour Disputes and Conciliation and Arbitration in France in 1901; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

ANNUAL.

No. 2,978. Nantes, 1902.

Imports declining, but exports to United Kingdom increasing.

Returns of shipping at Nantes, St. Nazaire and Sables

d'Olonne, and tables of the principal articles of import and export at these ports, with observations as to character of trade.

Government Publications.

No. 2,979. Batoum, 1902.

Petroleum industry depressed owing chiefly to over-production.

Facilities for trade with Afghanistan and Persia.

Mining enterprise.

Proposed railway and harbour works.

Returns of shipping and coasting trade, and of principal articles of export and import.

Detailed statistics of shipments and production of petroleum and petroleum products.

This publication contains also reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Novorossisk, Poti, and Baku.

No. 2,980. The Trebizond Vilayet, 1902.

Statistics of import and export trade with the United Kingdom.

Expediency of sending commercial travellers.

Returns of shipping at Trebizond and Samsoon.

Comparative tables of principal imports and exports, with observation as to character of trade; also totals by countries.

No. 2,981. Tripoli, 1902.

Imports restricted to cheap necessities.

Kano and the caravan trade.

Approximate returns of im-

ports and exports of principal articles with observations as to character of trade.

Shipping returns.

No. 2,982. Baden, 1902.

Trade dull, owing to doubtful future.

Effect of the Trusts on German industries.

Corn and hop markets.

Condition of tobacco, wine, chemical, and other trades.

No. 2,983. German Colonies, 1901-02.

Progress of settlement in Cameroons, South West Africa, &c.; native labour questions.

Trade of Samoa, New Guinea, Carolines, &c.

Economic development and projected railways in the African Colonies.

East African imports and exports diverted to the Uganda Railway.

Examination of the revenue and expenditure of the various colonies.

Situation in German sphere in China.

Government Publications.

MISCELLANEOUS.**No. 590. Trade and General Condition of the City and Province of Kermanshah.**

Description of the Province :
customs, occupations and re-
quirements of the inhabitants;
commercial position of the
capital.

Rich grain-producing centres.

Trade returns.

Account of the various dis-
tricts and their peoples.

Cost of living, building and
transport.

Business directory.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORT.

A report from the following British Colony has been issued by the Colonial Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," viz. :—

No. 383. Bermuda.**OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.**

Colonial Conference, 1902. Memorandum on Sea Power and the Principles involved in it. [Cd. 1,597.] Price 1d.

This is a copy of an amended version of the Admiralty Memorandum on sea power, which was presented to the Colonial Conference in June last. Amongst other points dealt with is the question of the value of British trade carried in different waters and the cost of maintaining British squadrons in those waters.

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the *Annual* and *Miscellaneous* Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the *Miscellaneous* Series are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
EUROPE—					
Denmark:			Servia:		
2934	Denmark (Supplimen- tary) 1901	1d.	2958	Servia 1902	1d.
France and Colonies:			Spain:		
2949	Brest 1902	1½d.	2924	Bilbao 1901	2½d.
2976	Calais "	2d.	2964	Bilbao 1902	2d.
2955	Cherbourg "	1½d.	Turkey:		
2941	French Guinea ... 1901	½d.	2970	Aleppo and Adana ... 1902	2d.
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	½d.	2950	Constantinople "	2d.
2960	Havre "	3d.	2932	Orete 1901	1d.
2966	Indo-China "	½d.	2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899-1901	2d.
2978	Nantes "	1d.	2962	Palestine 1902	1d.
German Empire and Colonies:			589	<i>Mining Industries and Forestry in Turkey</i> ...	3d.
2982	Baden 1902	1d.	AFRICA—		
2971	Bavaria-Nuremberg ... "	1d.	2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1d.
2966	Chemnitz "	1d.	2948	Somaliland Protectorate 1901-02	2½d.
2945	Estimates of the Ger- man Empire 1903	1d.	588	<i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda</i> "	½d.
2959	Germany 1902	1½d.	AMERICA, NORTH—		
2983	German Colonies 1901-02	2d.	United States of America:		
2977	Pomerania 1902	3d.	2967	Boston 1902	2½d.
Greece:			2952	Chicago "	4d.
2957	Cyclades 1902	1d.	2942	New Orleans "	2½d.
2953	Morea, and Provinces of Acarnania and Etolia 1902	1d.	2972	New York "	1½d.
2947	Thessaly "	1½d.	2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Vir- ginia, and Kentucky 1902	1½d.
Italy:			2968	Texas "	2d.
2930	Finances of Italy ... 1902	1½d.	587	<i>Coal Industry of the United States in 1901</i> "	2d.
2933	Italy 1901	3d.	Mexico:		
2936	Naples 1902	1½d.	2925	Mexico 1901	2½d.
2935	Venice 1901-02	1½d.	2951	Mexico City 1902	2½d.
Netherlands and Colonies:			AMERICA, CENTRAL—		
2965	Amsterdam 1902	1d.	2963	Nicaragua 1902	½d.
2974	Java "	1½d.			
Portugal:					
2954	Portugal 1902	½d.			
Russia:					
2979	Batoum 1902	1½d.			
2948	Odessa (Supplementary) 1901	1½d.			

Government Publications.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
AMERICA, SOUTH—			ASIA—		
Argentina:			China:		
2940	Argentine finances 1901-02	1½d.	2975	Chinkiang ...	1902 1d.
2961	Buenos Ayres ...	1902 1½d.	2969	Hankow ...	" 1½d.
Brasil:			Persia:		
2938	Brasil ... First half of 1902	½d.	590	Trade and General Con-	
2928	Rio de Janeiro ...	1901 1½d.		dition of the City and	
Chile:				Province of Kermanshah...	4d.
2946	Coquimbo ...	1901 ½d.	2929	Siam:	
WEST INDIES—				Chiengmai ...	1901 1d.
2927	Hayti ...	1901 1d.	2937	PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
				Samoa ...	1902 1d.

Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources:—

No.		Price.
EUROPE—		
Belgium:		
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries ...	½d.
Denmark:		
5	Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark for regulating the fisheries outside territorial waters in the ocean surrounding the Farø Islands and Iceland...	7½d.
France:		
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar ...	1d.
AMERICA, NORTH—		
United States of America:		
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska ...	½d.

Government Publications.

No.		Price.
	AMERICA, CENTRAL—	
	Guatemala.	
6	Accession of Guatemala to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field.	1d.
	ASIA—	
	Corea :	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	1d.
7	International Convention relative to bounties on sugar ...	1½d.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½d.
378	British Guiana	2½d.
379	Mauritius	3½d.
380	Basutoland	3d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2½d.
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½d.
—	Cyprus	3d.
383	Bermuda	1½d.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1d. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

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THE

Board of Trade Journal

(With which is incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

JUNE 4, 1903.

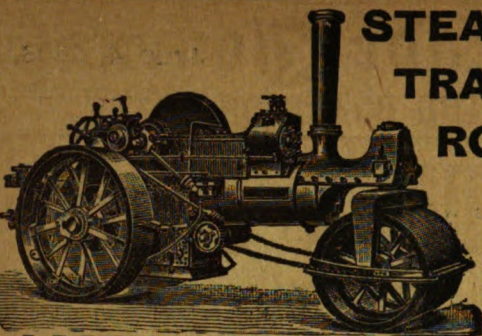
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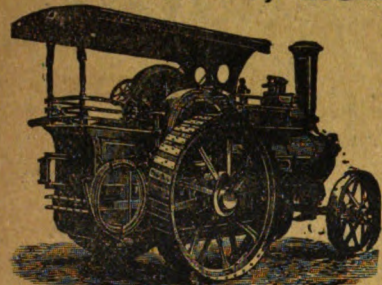
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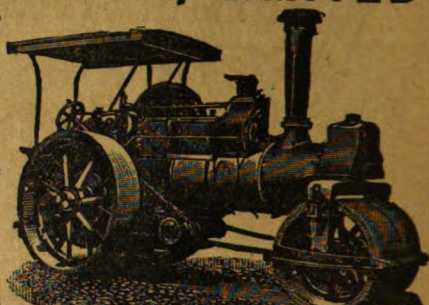
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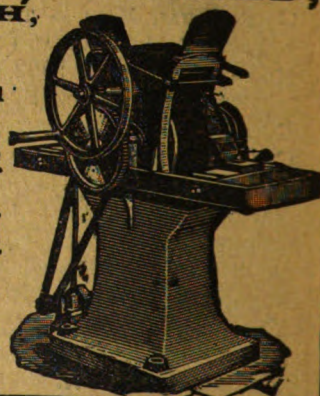
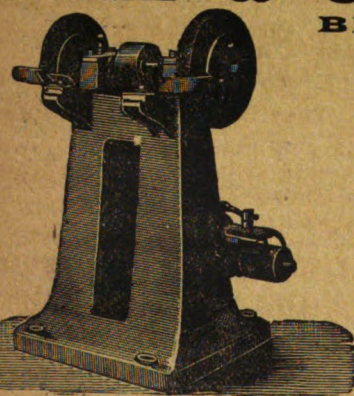
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THE
Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. XLI.]

June 4, 1903.

[No. 340.]

All applications respecting subscription to the "Board of Trade Journal," or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London; to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. iv. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office on pp. 477-9.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," and a note of two reports issued by the Colonial Office during the same period, will be found on pp. 475-6.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

CAPE COLONY.

<p>Suggested Increase in Railway Rolling- stock.</p>	<p>The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the courtesy of the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, of an extract from the "Cape Times" of the 5th May last, containing a report of the annual meeting of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce.</p>
---	---

Mr. J. A. S. Watson, in the course of his presidential address, alluded to the inadequacy of railway rolling-stock, concerning which the Committee of the Chamber had made repeated representations to the Railway Department during the past twelve months. He considered that the difficulties which the Railway Department stated they had experienced through British manufacturers being so full of orders might be overcome if the Government could see its way to calling for tenders from a wider circle of manufacturers.

The chairman quoted a letter suggesting that these orders were not sufficiently open to the trade and that the specifications were not standard, and expressed his desire to impress upon the

▲

Openings for British Trade.

Railway Department the necessity for making more effective arrangements for meeting the present pressure by increasing its stock of engines and trucks, and the staffs where necessary, as well as by opening all stations on all days for the receipt of goods at the earliest possible moment.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The Registrar of Imports and Exports at Singapore states in his fortnightly trade report, dated 20th April, that cycles of British make continue in favour in the Straits Settlements, the cheap and shoddy American article being looked on with well-founded suspicion even by natives.

The increase in the imports of carriages and carriage materials last year from the Continent is attributable to the supply of French motor cars, and America is also displaying characteristic enterprise in this rapidly growing business.

In the same report the Registrar states that American export meat companies have, through their agents, given considerable attention to the trade in tinned meats, &c., in 1902, and this attention is not likely to be diminished in the future.

RUSSIA.

H.M. Consul at Batoum, in his report on the trade of Batoum in 1902, states that it has now been finally decided that the Black Sea Coast Railway is to start at the station of Armavir, on the Vladikavkaz Railway, and is to be carried over the Goskh Pass on to Tuapse, the lines to be laid as near as possible to the town of Maikop. From Tuapse the rails are to follow the Black Sea Coast as far as Soukhoun, whence, whilst still continuing along the coast, the line is to be extended as far as the station of Novo-Senaki, where it will join the Trans-Caucasian Trunk Line. The railway is to be built as near to the Mingrelian town of Sugdidi as circumstances will admit.

This railway will draw away the cereals of a grain country north of the main Caucasian range, which has hitherto sent its produce principally to Novorossisk, but which, on the construction of a line, will be brought down and shipped at Soukhoun. The latter place, whilst becoming a port for the export of cereals, is therefore destined to play an important part in commerce in a few years hence. The railway is to be built by the Vladikavkaz Railway Company, and there is, therefore, every reason to expect that the work will be pushed forward very rapidly. (*Foreign Office Annual Series*, 2,979.)

Openings for British Trade.

NORWAY.

A despatch, dated the 27th May, has been received at the Foreign Office from H. M. Consul-General at Christiania, forwarding a copy and translation of a call for tenders for the supply of 300 tons of Cardiff coal, Nixon Navigation, to the Artillery workshops.

The tenders can be sent in to the "Artilleriets Verksteder" in sealed envelopes marked "Anbud paa Kul" before Wednesday, the 10th June, at noon. The tenders will be opened at the Director's office at 12.15 p.m. on that date. One hundred and fifty tons must be delivered before the end of June and the rest in November or December. The conditions, &c., may be seen at the office, where further information is obtainable.

Apart from the usual Customs duties, a preference of 10 to 15 per cent. is given to Norwegian traders.

DENMARK.

The "Berlingske Tidende," of May 27th, contains a notice calling for tenders for the supply for the Lyngby Commune Waterworks of cast-iron pipes, with the necessary "shaped pieces," of a total weight of about 650 tons, in accordance with conditions of tender, a limited number of which are available for distribution, on written request, to persons desirous of tendering. Tenders marked "Rørleverance til Lyngby Kommunes Vandværk, must be sent in to the Office of the Parish Council ("Sogneraadskontor"), Lyngby, by 1.30 p.m. on 9th June.

GERMANY.

In his recent report to the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul at Stettin writes:—

Hats. "It would appear that there is still a good opening for the sale of genuine English hats.

I noticed lately in one hatter's, felt hats bearing the following names, viz., "Swift, Robinson & Co., Piccadilly, London," "Andrews & Co., Cornhill, London," and "Briggs, Stanley & Co., Regent Street, London." These firms do not appear in the Post Office Directory nor in Kelly's Directory of Merchants, Manufacturers and Shippers. It is therefore to be presumed that these hats are foreign imitations. The duty on felt hats for men is 180 marks per 100 kilogs. (4l. 9s. 8d. per cwt.).

The Foreign Import Duties Return (Cd. 780 of 1902) prepared by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade, and published by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, at 1s. 10d., gives particulars of the rates of import duty levied in Germany (among other countries) upon the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom. Should any farther information be desired application should be made to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W.

Openings for British Trade.

GERMANY—continued.

"The price lists and trade publications received at this Consulate deal almost exclusively with heavy machinery, locomotives, fire-engines, ore crushers, and similar articles not easily disposed of or for current daily use, whereas lists or offers respecting hats, groceries, stationery, and iron bedsteads are conspicuous by their absence; the latter articles have become fashionable and are much purchased, being recommended by doctors; those for sale here cost nearly twice as much as in London—the frames are poor, frequently being made of rod iron."

"The price list of one of our largest exporters of groceries has been sent to me, and, on my recommendation, to several grocers. It is, in most respects, very excellently compiled, but prices being unfortunately in sterling, and weights in cwts., lbs, &c., I fear that no orders are likely to result."

"British jams, pickles, and various groceries are exposed for sale in several of the better class shops. Exporters of these goods should endeavour to use light weight receptacles for their goods, as all duties are levied on the gross weight of the packed article. Jam which formerly sold for 1 mark 50 pf. (1s. 6d.) per lb. in a china jar is now being sold at 1 mark 10 pf. (1s. 1d.) per lb., owing to its being imported in tins. This fall in price should cause a considerable increase in the sales."

"The prices asked for writing paper of all kinds are, in some cases, double those usual in England, but few of the varieties are of British origin. Duty on paper is 6 marks per 100 kilogs. (3s. per cwt.), and on envelopes 12 marks per 100 kilogs. (6s. per cwt.). Some small articles for office use are British." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,977.*)

On p. 441 will be found a further extract from the report of H.M. Consul at Stettin, stating that two large retail shops on the "Stores" principle have lately been established there, and these should prove likely buyers of British products for daily consumption.

**General
Merchandise in
Daily
Consumption.**

GERMANY—TOGOLAND.

Mr. Buchanan, Secretary to H.M. Embassy at Berlin, states in his recent report on the German colonies that, in Togoland, a narrow-gauge railway, connecting Lome with Little Popo is in course of construc-

**Railway
Materials.**

Openings for British Trade.

tion, and is eventually to be joined by a line some 75 miles in length from Lome to Misahoehe. This new line, which is now being surveyed, will pass through a country rich in palm oil, and open up what, it is hoped, will prove a flourishing cotton-growing district.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

On pp. 458-9 will be found extracts from the report by Mr. Buchanan, Secretary to H.M. Embassy, at Berlin, giving particulars of two proposed branch lines in German South-West Africa.

**Railway
Materials.**

FRANCE.

The British Vice-Consul at Amiens reports that an important agricultural co-operative society, the "Société Co-opérative Agricole de la Région du Nord," has its headquarters at 54, Rue Saint Jacques, Amiens, with branches at Arras, Beauvais, Laon, Lille, Dunkirk, Roye, Valenciennes, St. Quentin, Soissons, Compiègne, Meaux, Hangest-en-Santerre, St. Just-en-Chaussée, and Dieppe.

As one of the objects of the society is the purchase and sale of agricultural implements, it might be looked to as an opening for British productions, but the society appears to supply its members with implements of French make, with rare exceptions, when something special may be ordered through a Paris agent of the maker. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,976.*)

**Agricultural
Implements.**

PORTUGAL.

The "Diario do Governo" of 26th May contains a notice calling for tenders, to be presented up to 3 p.m. on 9th June, and which will be opened at noon on 10th idem, for the supply of certain stores to the Admiralty, among which may be noted:—

400 metric tons of coal-coke and 900 metric tons of forge-coal; provisional deposit required, 190 milreis, or about 34*l*.

10 metric tons of linseed oil; provisional deposit, 60 milreis, or about 11*l*.

540 barrels of sundry mineral oils and about 1,000 kilos. of others; provisional deposit, 130 milreis, or about 23*l*.

36 metric tons of soap, 6 of stearine candles, and 36 tons of stearine in pieces; provisional deposit, 560 milreis, or about 100*l*.

All particulars may be obtained at the Comissão de Compras de Marinha, in the Ministry of Marine and Foreign Affairs, Lisbon. The value of the contracts may be taken at about forty times the amount of the respective provisional deposits.

Openings for British Trade.

PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA.

With reference to the announcement on p. 485 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of December 11th last, it may be noted that the "Diario do Governo" of 26th May contains a Royal Order approving the statutes of the Benguella Railway Company (owner of the concession to Mr. Robert Williams), as set forth in the "Diario" in 8 chapters and 60 articles. The "Diario" referred to may be seen by those interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., on any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (except Saturdays, when the Branch closes at 1 p.m.).

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 26th May contains a Royal Order authorising the sheet of conditions for the establishment of a telephone line from Oviedo to Gijon and from the latter place to the port of San Juan de Nieva.

The conditions, which are printed in the "Gaceta," call for tenders, which will be received up to 1 p.m. 30 days after the appearance of the notice and will be opened five days later, at noon, in the Registry of the Directorate-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Calle Caretas, 10, Madrid, for the work of installation at the upset price of 460 pesetas or about 18*l.* per kilometre. A provisional deposit of 1,000 pesetas or about 29*l.* is required to qualify any tender and it is noted that the proposals already presented by the Director of the Sociedad Anonima Minas de Riosa are to serve as a basis, and that the author of the said proposals is to have preferential rights on equal terms.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 27th May contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened in Barcelona and in the Directorate-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce and Public Works, Madrid, at noon on 30th June, for the construction and alteration of sewers in the 13th section of the general sewerage project for the city extension, at the upset price of 803,168.50 pesetas, or about 23,416*l.* A provisional deposit of 5 per cent. of the upset price is required to qualify any tender.

ARGENTINA.

The "Boletin Oficial" of Argentina of 22nd April contains a Decree, authorising the Administration of the Andino Railway (Villa Maria to Mercedes) to acquire in Europe 20 kiloms. of steel rails, weighing 37 kilogs. per lineal metre, with their accessories.

Openings for British Trade.

CHINA.

H.M. Consul at Chinkiang reports that amongst minor articles of foreign manufacture, the import of which might be largely extended, may be mentioned enamelled ware, braid, fancy buttons, cigarettes, clocks, window glass, lamps and lamp chimneys, looking-glasses, medicines, soap and turmeric. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,975.*)

**Enamelled Ware,
Braid,
Fancy Buttons,
Cigarettes, Soap,
Clocks, Glass,
Lamps,
Medicines, &c.**

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS.**BELGIUM.**

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a note from the Belgian Minister in London, stating that an Agricultural Exhibition will be held at Bruges from the 4th to the 13th July next. A copy of the programme may be seen by persons interested, on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

FRANCE

According to the "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of the 23rd May, the Municipal Council of Lorient has recently decided to organise an International and Colonial Exhibition of Industry, Trade, Agriculture, Maritime Defence, and Fine Arts, to take place from July to October, 1903.

Applications for space are at present received by the organising committee, Hotel de Ville, Lorient.

COMMERCIAL MISSION TO SIBERIA.

With reference to the notice on p. 526 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 12th March last, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg reporting the departure on the 25th May of Mr. Cooke, British Commercial Agent at Moscow, on his special commercial mission to Siberia, and stating that during his absence H.M. Consul at Moscow will act for him, and forward, if necessary, any communication to places arranged.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON SUPPLY OF FOOD AND RAW MATERIAL IN TIME OF WAR: MEETING.

The Royal Commission on Supply of Food and Raw Material in Time of War met on the 21st and 22nd ult. at the Foreign Office. All the members of the Commission, a list of whom was given in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 30th April, p. 200, were present.

Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith, Deputy Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, and Mr. R. H. Rew, Head of the Statistical Branch of the Board of Agriculture, were called and examined.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Stettin.—H.M. Consul at Stettin, in his recent report, states that the following remarks written by him to a British firm of cloth manufacturers should be carefully studied and acted upon by any British firm desirous of doing business in Stettin, or in any other German town, viz.:—"If you still want cash payments against shipping documents, and quote prices in sterling, weights in ounces, and lengths in yards, it is useless your attempting to do business here, as the metric system alone is used."

Further on in his report the Consul again draws the attention of exporters to the fact that there are 40 manufacturers of ready-made clothing in Stettin, producing goods to the value of over 1,500,000*l.* per annum. It would, he thinks, appear worth the while of British manufacturers to attempt to supply some of the materials used in this industry, in which Stettin takes the lead in Germany. In default of travellers, the simplest method of doing business is to negotiate with one of the wholesale agents there, through whose hands pass all orders for cloth for local clothing manufacturers. The Consul states that he is informed that, even were an order sent direct to a cloth factory, a commission would be paid to the agent, in the same manner as if he had himself secured and forwarded the order. The names of the principal agents can be had on application to the Consulate.

H.M. Consul goes on to say:—"By far the greater number of the many enquiries received from British firms desirous of being placed in communication with agents or customers are very vaguely worded. These enquiries could be more satisfactorily answered were they made in the form of separate questions.

"I notice that German, French, and Scandinavian firms frequently advertise in the local newspapers for agents or firms dealing in their particular products. I recommend this method to British enquirers, instead of trusting to the Consul happening to know of some suitable person. The commercial standing of applicants for such agencies can easily be ascertained through an Information Bureau, of which there are several here.

"Two large retail shops on the "Stores" principle have lately been established, and through selling solely for cash are able to make prompt payments. These establishments deal in almost every class of goods, and should therefore prove likely buyers of British products in daily consumption. The dislike of British exporters to sell on credit is likely to be less of an obstacle than in dealings with other buyers, who, being in the habit of giving credit, are themselves unable to pay cash for their goods." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,977.*)

Calais.—In his recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series, 2,976*), H.M. Consul at Calais writes:—"Lists have been furnished through the Foreign Office to the Commercial Intelli-

British Trade Abroad.

gence Branch of the Board of Trade, of actual or possible dealers in British goods at Calais, Boulogne, Lille, Amiens and Roubaix, while commercial enquiries are always promptly answered by me. I am still of opinion, however, that the addressing of letters and circulars to foreign firms, especially in the English language and with English currency, weights and measures, will seldom lead to practical results, which are much more likely to be achieved by intelligent and well-equipped travellers."

Boulogne.—The British Vice-Consul at Boulogne writes:—"It seems idle to repeat the oft-expressed opinion that British ignorance of decimal coinage, weights and measures contributes considerably to keeping us out of touch with the Continent." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,976.*)

Corunna.—In his report on the trade of Corunna for the year 1902 (*Annual Series, 2,973*), the Acting British Consul at that port writes:—

"As far as this district is concerned, I have observed a great improvement in the manner in which British traders are making use of Consular assistance in matters of trade; there are one or two methods, however, which ought to be changed.

"Catalogues are now being sent in Spanish, but in the majority of cases firms when sending the catalogues in Spanish write in English, and very often with a request that the reply may be sent also in English. Such requests are not conducive to obtaining the desired orders.

"Prices are nearly always quoted f.o.b., whenever possible these should be quoted c.i.f.

"Weights and measures should be given in the decimal system. . . .

"The question of terms of payment when orders are sent to British firms has come under my notice on several instances. These, when demanding payment 'against documents,' do not take the necessary precaution to avoid displeasing the receiver of the goods. At times the documents are presented long before the merchandise arrives, at others the goods are in the Custom-house and the receiver is without the necessary documents to clear them, having to pay a fine to the Customs for every 24 hours that elapses without presenting the bill of lading. Care should be taken to avoid this difficulty in order to promote good feeling with British firms.

"Firms desirous of introducing their goods in this district should communicate with the Consular officer, enquiring as to whether there be an opening for their particular business, and should the reply be favourable, catalogues in Spanish, with prices quoted c.i.f. and in Spanish weights and measures, should be sent to the firms

British Trade Abroad.

mentioned by the Consular officer, who, it must be understood, disclaims responsibility as to the standing of any firm mentioned.

"Whenever possible, competent travellers should follow the catalogues, and after a reasonable time the result of the experiment might be reported to the Consular officer in order to watch the progress or decline of trade rivals and to study the reason for it."

Gijon.—The British Vice-Consul at Gijon reports that it is satisfactory to note that the United Kingdom has risen to the first place in the importation of machinery, and iron and metal work, and it is to be hoped that manufacturers will use every effort to retain the position which they now hold again for the first time for several years. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,973.*)

RUSSIAN TRADE IN 1902 VIA THE EUROPEAN FRONTIER, THE CAUCASUS, AND THE BLACK SEA.

The following particulars relating to the foreign trade of Russia by the European frontier, the Caucasus and the Black Sea during the year 1902, are translated from an article which appeared in the "Journal de St. Petersburg" of 1/14th May:—

According to figures furnished by the Department of Customs, the total value of the imports into Russia by the European frontier, the Caucasus and the Black Sea in 1902 was 527,095,000 roubles (55,638,000*l.*), as compared with 532,944,000 roubles (56,255,000*l.*) in 1901. The exports amounted in value in 1902 to 825,277,000 roubles (87,113,000*l.*), as against 729,815,000 roubles (77,036,000*l.*) in 1901.

Imports.

The following table shows the value of the imports by categories in 1901 and 1902:—

	1901.	1902.
	Roubles.	Roubles.
Food products	84,349,000	81,409,000
Products for industrial use	288,107,000	295,488,000
Animals... ..	1,495,000	1,403,000
Manufactured articles... ..	158,993,000	148,800,000
	532,944,000	527,095,000
Roubles £	56,255,000	55,688,000

Of the total import trade in 1902, 490,808,000 roubles represents the value of the trade by the European frontier, 12,320,000 roubles that by the Caucasus and Black Sea, and 23,967,000 roubles that of the special trade with Finland.

Russian Trade in 1902 via the European Frontier, the Caucasus, and the Black Sea.

The principal countries of origin are indicated in the following table :—

	1901.	1902.
	Roubles.	Roubles.
Germany	208,823,000	202,886,000
Great Britain	102,913,000	99,307,000
United States	34,111,000	39,160,000
France	27,566,000	26,284,000
Austria-Hungary	24,858,000	23,506,000
China	21,440,000	19,446,000
Egypt	18,299,000	15,082,000
Netherlands	8,545,000	11,337,000
East Indies	6,590,000	10,190,000
Italy	10,224,000	9,218,000

Exports.

The following table shows the value of the exports by categories in each of the years 1901 and 1902 :—

	1901.	1902.
	Roubles.	Roubles.
Food products	430,955,000	526,189,000
Products for industrial use	256,697,000	258,267,000
Animals... ..	20,224,000	21,558,000
Manufactured articles	21,939,000	19,263,000
	Roubles	
	729,815,000	825,277,000
	£ 77,036,000	87,112,000

From the subjoined table showing the export trade according to frontiers, it will be seen that exports by way of the European frontier have increased, whilst those by way of the Caucasus and Black Sea as well as for Finland have declined :—

	1901.	1902.
	Roubles.	Roubles.
European frontier	607,628,000	708,255,000
Caucasus and Black Sea	83,488,000	78,992,000
Finland... ..	38,699,000	38,030,000

As regards countries of destination it is found that Germany takes the largest share, with 208,596,000 roubles in 1902 as against 178,856,000 in 1901 ; then Great Britain with 188,775,000

Russian Trade in 1902 via the European Frontier, the Caucasus, and the Black Sea.

roubles in 1902 as against 156,751,000 in 1901, and the Netherlands 103,013,000 roubles in 1902 as against 84,689,000 in 1901. It will be noted that increases are here shown of nearly 32,000,000 roubles in the case of Great Britain, 24,740,000 roubles for Germany, and 18,324,000 roubles for the Netherlands.

Export trade is stated to be declining with Turkey, Egypt, the East Indies, and China, and decreases have taken place in the shipments of wheat, oats, and forest products to France.

RUSSIAN TEA AND SUGAR TRADE WITH PERSIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul-General at Odessa, in the course of which it is stated that, as far as can be ascertained, from 350,000 lbs. to 400,000 lbs., nearly all Chinese tea, are annually sent from Odessa to Persia by way of Baku. Very little tea has so far been sent by the Persian Gulf steamers, but a further large unknown quantity is sent from Moscow by rail to Baku from Persia.

H.M. Consul-General also transmits a translation of an extract from the last published commercial report of the Russian Consul-General at Bender-Bushire, as follows:—

“Except in Shiraz and parts of Bender-Bushire, Russian sugar is so far unknown in the markets of the Persian Gulf. The first, and so far the only practical attempt to export Russian sugar to the Persian Gulf was made on the first sailing of the Russian Steam Navigation Company's steamer “Kornilov” in the spring of 1901, when 950 sacks of refined loaf sugar (each weighing about 6 pounds, two together forming a camel load) were consigned to Bender-Bushire, and also 2,272 sacks and 187 packages of sand sugar.

“The refined sugar was sold to a Bushire firm, while the sand sugar was forwarded chiefly to Shiraz. A good augury for the future of this commerce is the fact of a Kiev Bourse broker, being specially sent out in the winter of 1901 by the Kiev Bourse Committee and the Russian sugar manufacturers to Bender-Bushire for the purpose of gaining acquaintance with the peculiarities of the South Persian markets before making new attempts to introduce Russian sugar there. Such a practical investigation was necessary in order to bring to the notice of the Russian exporters the minute particulars, which they must observe in order to successfully sell Russian produce in the Persian Gulf markets.

“It is necessary for the following most important conditions to be observed:—

Russian Tea and Sugar Trade with Persia.

"The local tastes and ideas must be taken into account, as the consumer judges the sugar by its outward appearance, shape, size of loaves,* and packing. Loaf sugar sells best if offered in small loaves of not more than two kilogrammes, the end rather flattened and the bottom concave. It should be easily soluble in hot water and make no froth, though as cheap as possible. Each loaf should be first wrapped in thin white and then in thick blue paper, and then tied crosswise with thin string, and given a black factory mark. The loaves must be packed in wooden boxes of sufficient strength, hooped with willow-withes. No case to contain over 32 loaves, which must be wrapped in straw and other packing materials to avoid breakage when carried on beasts of burden. In a word, the more the sugar imported at the ports of the Persian Gulf resembles that which is already well known (of French origin), the better its chance of success.

"Of sand sugar the most saleable is cheap sugar in large crystals, white and pure, in double or even treble (if for Shiraz or Isfahan) sacks of which the inner one must be the stronger and of closer texture, and the outer one thinner and with the mark of the factory.

"No bag must contain more than two cwts. (6·37 pounds). Just as it is necessary for refined sugar to be made in imitation of French sugar, so the sand sugar must copy Austrian sugar.

"Not as in 1901, Russian sugar should be consigned to all the principal ports of the Persian Gulf visited by the steamers of the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company, so that the sugar should quickly become better known, and a temporary failure at one point be compensated by the success at another, and indeed, each of these ports is deserving of notice for the quantities of sugar which it imports.

"Special attention should be paid to the markets of Bassorah and Bagdad, which supply with sugar large territories of Turkey and the adjoining provinces of Western Persia. The Bassorah sugar imports doubled in eight years, and reached in 1900 577,805 pounds (9,315 tons), and were worth 1,725,865 roubles (182,822*l.*).

"In order that the Persians may become better acquainted with Russian sugar, care must be taken that the supply should be maintained and not be merely spasmodic. Small permanent depôts of Russian sugar should be established at all the principal markets of the Persian Gulf, whence the sugar could be despatched as requisite into the interior.

"Such stores could easily be established (1) at Bagdad to provide all the Arab Irak, the southern portion of Turkish Kurdistan, the neighbouring Persian provinces, Kermanshah and Hamadan,

* 4½ lb. loaves are recommended for sale in Persia.

Russian Tea and Sugar Trade with Persia.

the southern portions of Persian Kurdistan, and the northern portions of the province of Luristan; (2) at Bassorah to supply sugar to the various places in that province; (3) at Bender-Bushire to furnish the provinces of Farsistan (Shiraz) and the neighbouring small ports on the Persian Gulf; (4) at Bunder-Abbas for Lar, Sirdzhan, Raffindzhan (Bagramabad), Kermana, and Yezd; (5) at Muhammer for Karun (lower course), and the whole of Huzistan; (6) at Akhvaz for the basin of the Upper Karun and the southern portion of Luristan and partly of the Isfahan district; (7) at Maskat for the eastern portion of Oman seashore, and lastly at Lingué to supply Laristan and the islands in that vicinity and the Oman shores of the Persian Gulf.

"The establishment of special sugar warehouses in the ports of the Oman littoral, Bahrein Island, and in Kuwait, offers no present advantage, especially as those ports are not visited by Russian steamers. It would be dangerous to entrust the organisation of the sale of Russian sugar in these new markets altogether to the commission agents already there, as they are mostly already interested in the sale of foreign sugar. So, if it be not feasible to have a Russian representative at each of the places, there should be at least one Russian specialist stationed on the gulf to superintend the whole affair and the several warehouses. This specialist could at the same time be charged with the collection of information regarding alterations in the conditions of those markets, exchange fluctuations, and the operations of foreign competitors, &c.

"It would be likewise desirable for several Russian sugar producers to avoid pernicious competition by coming to a previous mutual agreement. In the Persian Gulf commerce is a matter of barter; and it would be best for Russian sugar importers to take this hint and become also the exporters from the Persian Gulf of local raw produce to Russia.

"With a proper observance of the above main conditions, and a careful attention to the suggestions of practical experience, it seems certain that Russian sugar will not be slow to take in the Persian Gulf that position to which its quality entitles it. Russian sugar already prevails in Northern Persia, and has made its way south as far as Isfahan, where it holds its own against foreign produce. And if the difficult and costly transport has made it impossible for Russian sugar to penetrate further south than Isfahan, or, for instance, to reach Shiraz, we may now, with the establishment of this new steamship line, Odessa-Persian Gulf, hope to see it everywhere in Persia."

NOTE.—Poud = 36 lbs. avoirdupois.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY OF RUSSIA IN 1902.

The following review of the chemical industry in Russia has been translated from a recent number of the "St. Petersburg Messenger of Trade and Industry" by the United States Consul-General at St. Petersburg :—

The characteristic feature of last year was the almost total suspension of the import of chemical products and the very perceptible decrease in their prices, due to the growth of competition and improvements in manufacture. The demand for mineral acids, salts, and alkali has been largely supplied by home manufacturers, the import being confined to small ports and frontier towns. In addition to the works at Warsaw and Moscow, a new plant, with modern improvements, was completed at St. Petersburg, which caused, during the last year, a reduction of 30 per cent. in the price of sulphuric acid and its by-products.

There has been a marked increase in the amount of sulphur and sulphuric pyrites produced, while as regards the importation of these articles there has been a considerable falling-off, as a reference to the subjoined table will show :—

				Imports of Sulphur.		Imports of Sulphuric Pyrites (containing about 2 per cent of copper).	
				Pounds.	Tons.	Pounds.	Tons.
1900	...	...	...	1,102,000	17,918	3,317,000	53,934
1901	...	...	...	944,000	15,349	3,693,000	60,048
1902	...	...	...	93,000	1,512	3,106,000	50,504

The price of sulphur and sulphuric pyrites is gradually increasing, while that of nitric and hydrochloric acid has dropped from 75 and 80 kopecks (1s. 7d. to 1s. 8½d.) to 65 and 70 kopecks (1s. 4½d. and 1s. 6d.) per pound (36 lbs.). The price of chloride of lime decreased from 2.25 rbls. (4s. 9d.) in 1901 to 1.40 rbls. (3s.) at St. Petersburg, 1.30 rbls. (2s. 9½d.) at Moscow, 1.45 rbls. (3s. 1d.) at Riga, and 1.60 rbls. (3s. 5d.) at Odessa. This decrease was due to the erection of a new factory in 1902, which used the electrolytic method.

The trade in chemical products for manufacturing purposes shows a considerable increase in respect of indigo and oxalic acid. The supply of the latter has almost doubled during the last two years, and now amounts to from 3,000 to 3,500 pounds (48 to 56 tons) per month.

Competition and cheap varieties of foreign tannin have reduced the price of this product from 35 to 36 rbls. (74s. to 76s.) to 30 to 31 rbls. (63s. 4d. to 65s. 5d.) per pound.

A plant has been recently erected at Kineshma, in the Kostroma government, for manufacturing benzol and aniline from petroleum.

BRICK-MAKING IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Association or Combination of Manufacturers.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a memorandum, drawn up by the Commercial Attaché to H.M. Embassy at Vienna, relating to the introduction of American brick-making machinery in Austria and to the combinations formed by brick manufacturers in both Austria and Hungary.

According to this memorandum, American brick-making machinery was introduced into Austria in the year 1899 by the "Wienerberger Ziegelfabriks und Baugesellschaft," a company representing with its annual output of 200,000,000 bricks the biggest individual brick-making industry in the world.

Already in 1898 the company had decided on this step owing to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient labour for the manufacture of hand-made bricks, and also to the fact that the brick produced by the "stiff mud clay" process was not popular with consumers.

Many difficulties, however, had to be overcome before the American machinery intended for the production of the American standard brick of $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches (222 by 108 by 64 millimetres) could be successfully adapted to the manufacture of the larger Austrian standard brick of 290 by 140 by 65 millimetres.

Nevertheless, within a year these preliminary difficulties were overcome, and since 1899 two vertical machines from a firm at Cincinnati, Ohio, have been at work in the Wienerberger factory.

In the following year the General Director of the Company, Dr. Emil Teirich, proceeded to America for the purpose of studying other kinds of brick-making machinery in use in that country. As a result of these investigations the Company introduced the horizontal machines of a firm at Wellington, Ohio, and improved upon them to such an extent that one of these machines is now capable of turning out 2,500 bricks—Austrian standard—per hour.

During the last three years the construction of brick-making machinery has been occupying the attention of Austrian machine manufacturers, and at the present time horizontal machines on the Wienerberger Company's system and vertical machines on Craeger and Son's system, and on the system of the Eastern Machinery Company of Newhaven, Connecticut, are being turned out.

Several brick factories in Austria have adopted this class of machinery, and it would seem as if Germany was going to follow suit, as during the present year two brick-making machines have already been exported thither from Austria.

An Austro-Hungarian Brick Trust does not exist. In the year 1900, however, nine of the principal manufacturers of Vienna and neighbourhood formed themselves into an association for the purpose of disposing of their production in ordinary wall-bricks by means of a general sales bureau. After duly weighing the different possibilities of an organisation of this nature, it was

Brick-making in Austria-Hungary.

finally decided that the Wienerberger Company should undertake, on commission, the sale of the total production of the parties to the contract.

The proceedings of the Wienerberger Company, as commission agents to the association, are controlled by a committee representing the different firms interested.

The firm acting as commission agents receive, as compensation for its working expenses, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the invoice value of the goods sold. After deduction of this commission, all profits, bad debts, &c., are shared *pro rata* by the association.

The committee decides what proportion of production should for the time being be allotted to each individual manufacturer in the association, and fixes selling prices, credit facilities, &c., according to the requirements of the market.

The factories, parties to the foregoing contract, are in a position to turn out annually about 400,000,000 bricks, Austrian standard.

The association was not founded for the purpose of raising prices, but with the object of reducing expenses, and establishing fixed rules as to the method of payments; and from all reports it would seem that the system is working equally satisfactorily for both consumers and producers.

In Hungary a different arrangement has been made. With a view to the prevention of over-production, a joint stock company was formed at Budapest in 1899 for the sale of ordinary wall-bricks. The company consists of 16 factories, with a total annual output of about 420,000,000 bricks.

The capital of the company is 1,000,000 crowns, divided into 1,000 shares of 1,000 crowns each, of which 30 per cent. is paid up. Owing to a "pooling" arrangement amongst the holders the shares are not on the market.

The object of the organisation is the sale of all bricks produced by shareholders, whether hand or machine-made, the granting of cash advances on stocks on the basis of a stipulated minimum price, and the regulation of production according to the requirements of the market.

The direction of the company is entrusted to a council of 15 members, and its supervision in detail to a committee of five.

The improvement in prices anticipated by the Company has, however, as yet, not been realised. This is partly to be attributed to the competition of five factories which have not joined the cartel and partly to a reduced demand owing to the depressed condition of the building trade in Hungary. The Company's profits for 1900 were only 16,431 crowns, and for 1901 28,833 crowns. No dividend has as yet been declared.

Inasmuch as there is no export trade in bricks from the dual monarchy, no comparison between home and export prices can be made.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN INDO-CHINA.

With reference to the statements published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 5th September, 1901, p. 525, and 27th February, 1902, pp. 396-7, respecting new railways in French Indo-China, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Pakhoi, reporting that the construction of the network of railways in Indo-China, for which the loan of 8,000,000*l.* was voted in 1898 by the French Chamber, is making good progress, but has scarcely yet advanced sufficiently to be of any great benefit to trade generally, although the movement of goods in two or three districts has, no doubt, been considerably facilitated. The railways contemplated by this scheme* are: a trunk line from Saigon along the coast through Hue and Vinh to Hanoi; lines from Hanoi to Haiphong, from Hanoi through Langson to Dongdang on the Kuanghsi frontier, from Hanoi through Laokay to Yunnan-fu; and branches from Tanlin to Lang Bian, and from Saigon to Mytho and Cantho. Of these, the lines from Hanoi to Dongdang, from Hanoi to Haiphong, from Hanoi to Ninbinh, and from Saigon to Mytho have been working for some time. The sections from Hanoi to Yenbay, about 45 miles beyond Vietry, from Ninbinh to Vinh, and from Saigon to Tanlin, are expected to be opened to traffic shortly. The section from Tourane to Hue (65 miles) will be completed in three years, and that from Yenbay to Laokay, which is let out on contract, should be finished at the end of 1904. A number of branch lines to serve as feeders of the main system, and to open up the interior, are also projected.

In a supplementary report dated 23rd February last, the Consul states that the line from Hanoi to Vietry is finished, but at the time of writing was not yet formally open to traffic owing to an accident to the bridge at that place. The section to Yenbay (about 80 kilom.) is expected to be opened in June.

The route selected from Laokay to Yunnan-fu has turned out to be impracticable, and the line will now pass some distance from Hengtzu, to which a branch will, however, be made.

The Langson line has been carried right up to the frontier at Nankuan, but trains only run to Dongdang, 8½ kiloms. distant.

The section from Ninbinh to Thanhhoa will be finished this year, and the continuation to Vinh shortly afterwards.

The section from Saigon to Bienhoa is already open. There is a short branch from Ticaou to the busy river port Dapcau, one of 2 kiloms. from Namdinh to its port, one of 5 kiloms. from Vinh to its port Benthuy, one from the Ninghsion coal mines to Tourane, and one for portage purposes across the Isle of Khone, on the Mekong, where navigation is obstructed by rapids.

* For a description of these projected railways, see p. 7 and pp. 20-2 of "Trade and Shipping of South-East Asia." [Cd. 324/1901. Price 1*s.* 0½*d.*].

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 18th April last, containing certain Decisions issued by the Department of Trade and Customs on the 15th April, 1903, under section 139 of the Customs Act of 1901, with reference to the duties payable on the undermentioned articles on importation into the Commonwealth :—

Customs Decisions.		Salicylate of soda and salicylate of potash—	
	As salicylic acid	20	per cent. <i>ad val.</i>
Mica chimneys—			
	As glass chimneys	20	„ „

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A copy of the "South Australian Government Gazette" for 26th March last has been received, which contains regulations issued by the Lieutenant-Governor of the State of South Australia on 25th March, 1903, relating to the importation of animal manures.

The regulations in question, are made in accordance with the provisions of the "Stock Diseases Act, 1888"; they provide that in order to prevent the introduction and spread of the disease affecting stock known as anthrax, the importation into the State of South Australia from any place beyond that State, of any animal manures is prohibited except under certain conditions, the following of which are the more important :—

(1) Animal manures may be landed at Port Adelaide only, and not less than 48 hours notice must be given to the Inspector of Stock, in a certain specified form, of the intention to land such animal manures.

(2) No animal manures shall be landed from any place beyond the State, without the written permit of an Inspector. A fee of 10s. is to be paid to the Inspector for every permit issued, and 5s. for every inspection made by him.

(3) All animal manures and all bags and packages which contain or have contained animal manures shall, on being landed, be removed to such place within Port Adelaide as the Inspector shall direct, and shall be subjected for at least two hours to a moist heat of not less than 250° F.

*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***MAURITIUS.**

With reference to the Notice published on p. 166 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 23rd April last, the Board have now received from the Collector of Customs at Port Louis, Mauritius, a copy of a Proclamation (No. 13, of 1903) issued on the 21st April last, revoking the Proclamation of the 4th March, 1903 (No. 7, of 1903), which prohibits the importation of live stock, &c., into the Colony from Reunion, where cattle plague is no longer prevalent.

**Prohibition of
the Importation
of Live Stock, &c.,
from Reunion
removed.**

EGYPT.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 27 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 2nd April last, the Board of Trade are now in receipt of a copy of the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 16th May, containing the following revised Valuation Tariff* in use by the Egyptian Customs authorities for the purpose of assessing Customs duties on imported sugars. This revised Tariff, which was to come into operation on the 12th May and will remain in force until the 11th September, 1903, is as follows:—

Kinds of Sugar.	Valuation per 100 kilogs.†
	Millièmes.‡
Crystallised or moist, in single or double bags (gross weight)	950
Powdered or centrifugal, in single or double bags (gross weight)	980
Crushed, in single or double bags (gross weight)	1,050
Cubes, in boxes (net weight)	1,120
Loaves, in boxes (net weight)	1,200

* For particulars as to the nature of these Egyptian Valuation Tariffs, see "Board of Trade Journal" for the 19th March, pp. 589-90.

† Duty is levied on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent.

‡ 1,000 millièmes = £E 1 = 12. 0s. 6½d.

PORTUGAL.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that, under the terms of a recent Portuguese Law approving a contract for establishing a mail service between Portugal and Portuguese East Africa, it is provided that the preference of 50 per cent. accorded by the Mother Country to sugar produced in the Province of Mozambique is applicable only to sugar carried in national vessels. Sugar, however, carried by foreign vessels, when shipped at ports not served by a regular Portuguese line of ships, direct or indirect, will enjoy the same preferential treatment as hitherto.

**Preferential
Treatment of
Sugar produced
in Mozambique.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SPAIN.

With reference to notices which have appeared in previous issues of the "Journal" on the subject of the payment in gold of the duties upon certain articles imported into Spain, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of a Royal Order, dated the 28th April, 1903, whereby additional facilities are afforded to importers and exporters in order to enable them to effect their payments in gold. The objects of this Royal Order are thus explained:—The Ministry of Finance, "in agreement with the Bank of Spain, has decided to establish, by way of experiment, a system calculated to afford to those persons liable to the payment of duties in gold, who do not possess an account current, the means of having at their disposal the necessary coin, either by means of accounts current in gold, or of accounts current in silver (paying the premium on gold), or by advances in francs." The complete translation of the order, including the regulations governing the above-mentioned facilities, may be seen by those interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The following is the substance of some decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington for the guidance of the United States Customs Officers and others:—

Customs Decisions.

Galingale rush.—So-called "Galingale rush" (*Cyperus tegetum*), each stem being split open and dried, but not further advanced, is exempt from duty under the provisions for "textile grasses or fibrous vegetable substances, not dressed or manufactured in any manner," in paragraph 566 of the Tariff. The provisions for manufactures of vegetable fibre (paragraph 347), "straw" (paragraph 255), and "vegetable substances, crude or unmanufactured" (paragraph 617), are not applicable.

Carbonate of baryta, precipitated.—Paragraph 489 of the Tariff providing for the free entry of "baryta, carbonate of, or witherite," is not limited to the particular kind of carbonate of baryta known as witherite, but includes all carbonates of baryta, whether known by the name of witherite or not.

Split bamboo, cut into lengths of 12 inches, for use in making brooms, is entitled to free entry under paragraph 700 of the Tariff. Splitting bamboo is held not to constitute a manufacture of bamboo, as it does not change its name, character, or use.

Latakia tobacco, imported in the leaf and unstemmed and assembled on strings inserted at one end of each, is not tobacco

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—continued.

manufactured, and although not used or fit for cigar fillers is nevertheless dutiable as filler tobacco at the rate of 35 cents per pound under paragraph 213 of the Tariff, by virtue of the definition of "filler tobacco" contained in paragraph 214.

"*Alpha-naphthylamin hydrochloride*," produced by treating alpha-naphthylamin, a free base, with hydrochloric acid, thus producing the former, which is a salt, and which is known and designated in trade by that separate and distinct name, and which is derived from coal tar, and used to be transformed into azo dyes, and is not a medicinal preparation nor a colour or a dye, is not entitled to free entry under the provisions of paragraph 524 of the Tariff as "naphthylamin," but is properly dutiable at the rate of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, under the provisions of paragraph 15 as a "preparation of coal tar."

Countable cotton tapestries (finished articles).—The countable provisions of the cotton schedule of the Tariff (paragraphs 304-309 inclusive), assessing duty upon "cotton cloth" according to count of threads, weight, and value, are applicable to finished articles of cotton, made up and ready for use, when susceptible of such count, &c. Countable cotton tapestry squares and curtains made up and ready for use are dutiable under the appropriate countable provisions of the cotton schedule as "cotton cloth" and not as "manufactures of cotton not specially provided for" under the provisions of paragraph 322.

Rubber bit covers.—Sheets of rubber about six inches in length and the same in width, rolled tubular in form, used to cover the portion of the metal bit entering a horse's mouth as a protection to the latter, detachable, and ready to be further shaped to fit any bit and suitable for no other purpose, are properly dutiable at the rate of 45 per cent. *ad valorem* as "saddlery and harness and parts of either, finished or unfinished," under the provisions of paragraph 447 of the Tariff.

Saddlery and harness and parts thereof.—Girths, kneecaps, and rollers, made principally of leather and in part of wool, and bridle fronts, composed chiefly of leather and in part of metal, all concerned with the equipment of horses, and made and used solely for that purpose, are dutiable *eo nomine* as "saddlery and harness or parts of either," at the rate of 45 per cent. *ad valorem*, under paragraph 447.

Flax towels and metal scissors, though used in and about the grooming or equipment of a horse, are properly dutiable as manufactures of flax and metal respectively, under the appropriate provisions of the Tariff.

Linen squares, ranging in sizes from 6 by 6 to 9 by 9 inches, with hem not exceeding half-an-inch in width, used chiefly as centres for lace handkerchiefs, are dutiable at 55 per cent. *ad*

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

valorem, under paragraph 345 of the Tariff, as "unfinished" handkerchiefs.

Crude egret feathers, not being ornamental in that state, and requiring skilled labour to convert them into ornamental feathers, are dutiable at the rate of 15 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 425 of the Tariff. To fall within the provision for crude ornamental feathers, such articles must be of the class which can be used for ornamental purposes in their crude state.

Old locomotive tires, although known as scrap tires, not having lost their character as tires, are not dutiable as scrap steel, but are dutiable as locomotive tires at the rate of 1½ cents per pound under paragraph 171 of the Tariff.

Prepared vegetables.—Vegetables which have been dried, or dried and cut open, or cut or split into small pieces, are dutiable at 40 per cent. *ad valorem* as "vegetables prepared or preserved," under paragraph 241 of the Tariff, and not at 25 per cent. *ad valorem* as "vegetables in their natural state," under paragraph 257.

"*Vegetables in their natural state.*"—The phrase "vegetables in their natural state," in paragraph 257 referred to above, describes the vegetable with the natural moisture still inhering in its substance and having the form and general characteristics of a fresh vegetable.

COLOMBIA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a Colombian Decree, dated 16th March, 1903, abrogating the provisions relative to the taxes leviable on parcel post packages which were contained in a Decree of the 28th May, 1902, and noted at p. 411 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 28th August last. The new Decree provides that merchandise imported into the Republic in packets or by parcel post without a Certified Consular Invoice, shall pay taxes in lieu of Consular fees, as follows:—

1. Packets containing precious stones, loose or set, gold, platinum, and silver, in any form, four per cent. of their value in national money.
2. Packets containing other articles, two per cent. of their value in the same currency.

The complete translation of the Decree, which contains, in addition to the above, provisions as to the manner of assessment of the value of merchandise imported by parcel post, may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

UNITED KINGDOM.

**Eastern
Mail Service
Committee.** A committee has been appointed to consider the best means of providing for the conveyance of the mails to and from the East and Australasia on the expiration of the existing contracts with the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Steam Navigation companies. It consists of the following members: Mr. Evelyn Cecil, M.P., Chairman; Mr. H. Buxton Forman, C.B., Assistant Secretary, Post Office; Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G., Principal Clerk, Colonial Office; Mr. F. C. Holiday, Auditor of Home Accounts, India Office; Mr. S. J. Graff, C.B., Civil Assistant to the Director of Transports, Admiralty; Mr. W. E. Smith, Superintendent of Construction Accounts, Admiralty, and Sir T. W. P. Blomefield, Bart., Assistant Secretary for the Finance Department, Board of Trade; with Mr. A. G. Ferard, of the Secretary's Office, Post Office, as Secretary.

RUSSIA.

H.M. Consul at Batoum reports (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,979*), that the "Deutsche Levante Linie," in conjunction with the Hamburg-American Company's Line, has established a regular line of steamers, and maintains a service between Batoum and New York. So far the undertaking has been very successful, seeing that they have been able to obtain full cargoes for their boats from Batoum.

Further on in his report H.M. Consul states that last year the firm of Nobel Brothers decided to furnish the Afghan markets with kerosene by the Kerki route. This fortress and customs post is situated about 180 miles from the station of Chardjui. In August last the first consignment of kerosene was sent to Kerki. The firm propose to ask for permission from the Government to establish a customs post at Zaida, where the formalities for receiving the return of excise duty can be carried out with greater ease.

GERMANY.

H.M. Consul at Stettin reports that the heavy harbour and other dues which are levied in Stettin tend to cause a reduction in the shipping visiting the port; to this must be added the obstruction and extra expense caused by ice. Through the early commencement of the winter considerable losses were incurred by Stettin shipowners, by whom the refusal of the Government to lower the dues, as was

Shipping and Transport.

GERMANY—*continued.*

done at Emden, is keenly felt, as also by all vessels trading to Stettin.

The competition of the Elbe-Trave Canal has made a further disastrous advance, to the detriment of Stettin's trade; and to this must be added the policy of reduced freights on the railways, which has for its object the increase of railway traffic at the expense of the coastwise freights by steamers, and through this the large export of spirits will soon be lost to Stettin. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,977.*)

With reference to the Notice on p. 361 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 20th November last, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at Berlin to the effect that the Prussian Diet has passed a Bill empowering the Government to purchase for the State the six following private Railways:—

	Length in miles.	
Marienburg Mlawkaer (West Prussia)	93
Altdamm Kolberg (Pomerania)	111
Stargand Custrin (Neumark)	120
Kiel Flensburg (Schleswig Holstein)	51
Dortmund Gronau Enscheden (Westphalia)	61
East Prussian Southern Railway	152

With the acquisition of these six lines by the State, the nationalisation of Prussian railways may now, it is stated, be regarded as completed in all essential points, and the working of the existing system should consequently be rendered more efficient.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

In the report on the German Colonies recently issued by the Foreign Office, it is stated that in South-West Africa the railway from Swakopmund to Windhoek, connecting the coast with the interior by way of Karibib, was opened to traffic in June, 1902. It was commenced in the autumn of 1897, has a length of about 237 miles, and has cost nearly 700,000*l.* The total receipts for 1903 are estimated to produce 46,980*l.*, of which passenger traffic is credited with 4,580*l.*, goods traffic with 40,000*l.*, and sundry miscellaneous receipts with 2,400*l.*, while the total expenditure is returned at 60,090*l.* (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,983.*)

Shipping and Transport.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA—continued.

In the same report it is stated that the construction of a branch line from Karibib to Otavi in German South-West Africa has been for some time in contemplation. The Otavi mines are also eventually to gain access to the sea by means of a railway to be constructed by the Otavi Mining and Railway Company to a port on the west coast. According to an announcement which appeared in the "National Zeitung" last autumn, the company has elected in favour of Port Alexander in Portuguese Angola as the starting point of the proposed railway, which would be carried thence across the Kunene to Otavi, and prolonged, should the company decide to exercise the right vested in it by its concession, in the direction of Rhodesia. The selection of Port Alexander, instead of a port on German territory, gave rise to much adverse criticism at the time; and it is now rumoured that the company, while adhering to its intention of ultimately constructing the railway to Port Alexander, will content itself for the present with connecting the mines with the Swakopmund-Windhoek Railway by a branch line to Karibib. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,983.*)

MINERALS, METALS, AND MACHINERY.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

The following table, based on returns published in the "Queensland Government Mining Journal" of 14th March, shows the value of minerals produced in New South Wales during the year 1902. Figures for 1901 are added for purposes of comparison:—

	1901.	1902.
	£	£
Gold	921,282	1,080,773
Silver (concentrates, &c.)	—	1,440,179
Silver (ingots and matte)	50,484	—
Silver-lead, ore, and sulphide	1,803,979	—
Coal	2,178,929	2,206,598
Copper	413,302	308,923
Opal	120,000	140,000
Coke	105,665	89,605
Iron (from scrap)	123,750	82,273
Kerosene shale... ..	41,489	59,717
Tin	77,315	53,706
Lead	100,501	47,658
Hydraulic cement	—	46,500
Other minerals... ..	69,940	77,713
Total value £	6,006,636	5,633,645

RUSSIA.

The British Vice-Consul at Poti in his report for 1902 (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,979), states that the present (end of 1902) stock of ore at the manganese mines at Tchiaturi is about 240,000 tons, which is estimated to cost the holders about 7 copecks per pound, or about 9s. 6d. per ton. The manganese ore produced during the year was mined with greater care than in previous years. The average quality of the present stock is therefore much superior to that held towards the end of the year 1901.

There has been no serious attempt made by any foreign or Russian firms to secure manganiferous land in large enough plots to be able to work on an extensive scale. The exporters are numerous, and ore is secured by them in Tchiaturi from the small dealers and landowners.

Steamers here are almost entirely loaded by direct waggons of ore from Tchiaturi.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

FRANCE.

In his recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 2,978),

**Coal Trade in
the District of
Nantes.**

H.M. Consul at Nantes remarks that until last year the whole of the coal trade of that district was with the United Kingdom, and would probably have remained so but for the strikes of the last few years, which caused so much inconvenience and loss to users of British coal in this district that they have been for some time looking out for other sources of supply which would make them independent of British coal in future.

Different places have been tried, but until last year the results were not satisfactory, and it was only in 1902 that their efforts were attended with success in two different directions.

In one case they have succeeded in obtaining special railway rates for French coal from the northern collieries, which enabled it in 1902 to be sold in this district at prices allowing it to compete with British, especially in a northern direction, and this native coal has been used in a part of the Nantes district which was formerly entirely supplied by the United Kingdom through the ports of Nantes and St. Nazaire.

In the other case the supply has been obtained from the German collieries on the Rhine. This coal has given great satisfaction, being of good quality and moderate in price, as might be expected, owing to the much lower wages paid in Germany. The cost of carriage is also remarkably low, as it comes by water from the collieries through Rotterdam.

The difficulty about this coal has hitherto been that it was too small for the grates in use in the Nantes district, but manufacturers are having them altered to suit it, and the Consul fears that a reduction in the import of British coal must be expected on this account in future. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,978.)

H.M. Consul at Calais reports that chalk, though not specified in

**Chalk Exports
from Calais to
United States.**

the table supplied to him by the Customs, has been recently an important export; a commercial informant gives the figures at 22,000 tons of common chalk for the United States, and 8,000 of phosphoric chalk. In March, 1903, three cargoes, in British vessels, of common chalk for the United States totalled 13,500 tons, and there was a shipment for Middlesbrough. It comes from various places in the Calais district, and even from Camiers and Etaples, on the other side of Boulogne, and, adds the Consul, the question naturally suggests itself whether this American demand could not be supplied from British ports.

Further on in his report the Consul remarks, that as regards phosphates and phosphoric chalk in the Boulogne district, the situation is becoming worse and worse owing to lower prices and increased cost of labour. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,976.)

*Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.***FRANCE**—*continued.*

In the same report the Consul gives tables showing the production of coal in the basins of the Pas-de-Calais and the Nord during the year 1902, together with the production of coke and patent fuel at works belonging to mining companies of these basins, from which the following figures have been extracted:—

	1901.	1902.*
Coal:	Tons.	Tons.
Basin of the Pas-de-Calais	14,661,119	13,582,504
„ Nord... ..	5,692,388	5,419,765
Total Coal	20,353,507	19,002,269
Coke	1,310,564	1,331,134
Patent Fuel	623,390	797,717

* The figures for 1902 are only approximate.

The British Vice-Consul at Lille reports that the violent campaign against the use of white lead (*blanc de céruse*) for painting has severely affected this industry, of which Lille is the principal French centre; it is very doubtful if white lead can be effectively replaced, various substitutes hitherto failing to give satisfaction.

Largely increased importation of oxide of zinc, and introduction of a new product called “litophone,” suggest that other countries, including the United Kingdom and Germany, quite as interested in sanitary questions as France, profit by the anti-white lead campaign to the detriment of French producers. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,976.*)

CHINA.

In a report recently issued by the Foreign Office, it is stated that the Shantung railway has now brought the Wei-hsien coal-fields into direct communication with Tsingtau, and the first coal train reached that port at the end of last year. The Shantung coal has been tried both in the Government workshops at Tsingtau and on board ships of the German China Squadron, and is found to produce more heat and less smoke than Japanese coal. Arrangements are being made for its supply and sale at other ports in the Far East. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,983.*)

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

BRITISH INDIA

(BUT INCLUDING PONDICHERRY THIS YEAR).

The Board of Trade have received a copy of a monthly return issued by the Indian Government, showing the quantity of cotton yarn spun, and of cotton woven goods produced during January, 1901, 1902, and 1903, and the ten months ending 31st January of those years, in each province of British India, and the Native States.

The following summarised statement, extracted from the above return, gives particulars for the ten months ended 31st January, 1901, 1902, and 1903:—

		Ten Months ended 31st January.		
		1901.	1902.	1903.
BRITISH INDIA, BERAR, AND NATIVE STATES.				
Cotton yarn spun	Lbs.	277,203,555	481,666,326	481,438,652
Cotton woven goods produced:—				
Grey goods	{ = Yards	69,407,197	84,199,246	83,538,672
White and coloured goods	Lbs.	285,225,118	346,901,090	338,898,194
Hosiery	"	14,061,085	16,938,740	19,829,196
		341,789	421,085	409,952

NOTE.—Returns for Pondicherry are included, for the first time, in January, 1903.

FRANCE.

H.M. Consul at Calais in his recent report states that a bounty of about 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per acre has been granted by the French Ministry of Agriculture on flax and hemp culture. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2976.*)

PERU.

According to a report published in the April "Bulletin" of the International Bureau of the American Republics, the exportation of cotton from Peru is next in importance to that of sugar. The establishment of cotton mills and of mills for the production of cotton-seed oil, and for the manufacture of soap therefrom, exporting the waste products of the oil mills in the form of oil cakes, which are used in England for the fattening of cattle, has caused a considerable increase in the number and size of the cotton plantations of the nation, and especially as regards those devoted to the cultivation of Egyptian cotton. The price paid by the owners of cotton mills in Peru for "Egyptian" cotton is at least

Yarns and Textiles.

4 soles (8s. 1½d.) more per 100 kilogrammes than the ruling prices in the European markets.

In all of the valleys where cotton is cultivated cotton gins have been erected. These gins receive the raw cotton, seed, press, and bale it for a nominal sum, and in some cases do this service for the cotton seed. In many instances the large plantations have their own gins, and seed and bale their own product. The best cotton is that which is produced in the Department of Piurá, and known in the American and European markets as "full" and "moderate rough." This cotton brings exceptionally high prices on account of its fibre and the adaptability of mixing it with wool in the process of weaving. At the present time nearly all the cotton exported is the Piurá cotton, the "Egyptian" being consumed in the domestic factories of the Republic.

The following table shows the exportation of cotton during the last five years:—

		Metric tons.			Metric tons.
1897...	...	5,586	1900 ...	...	7,246
1898...	...	6,712	1901 ..	...	8,011
1899...	...	5,876			

The consumption of "Egyptian" cotton by the domestic factories of the country is estimated at 1,600 metric tons, which added to the quantity exported gives the present annual production of cotton in the Republic of Peru, including all grades and brands, at 9,600 metric tons.

CHINA.

In the recent report of H.M. Consul at Chinkiang it is stated that

**Indian Yarn at
Chinkiang.**

in cotton yarn the Indian product continues to hold the market. The Japanese article, which seemed in 1899 to be making some impression, has dwindled away, whilst British yarn is represented by some 50 tons only. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,975.*)

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 30th May were as follow:—

Wheat	27s. 8d.
Barley	23s. 7d.
Oats	18s. 5d.

For further particulars see p. 474.

NATAL.

According to the annual report of the Durban Chamber of Commerce for the year 1902, it is stated with regard to tea cultivation in Natal, that by increased planting on several of the estates the total acreage of tea plantations reaches now about 4,000 acres, of which about 3,700 acres will have been picked from during the current season, 1902-03. The manufacture will be about 1,600,000 lbs. weight. The shortage in rainfall will account for reduced output in all districts. The prospective yield for next season should, in consequence of a considerable portion of the acreage of the young tea planted three years ago coming into fuller yield, amount to 2,000,000 lbs.

The demand is steadily increasing, and there is room for further development provided the necessary labour is obtainable.

CAPE COLONY.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, a copy of a return showing the quantity and value of fruit imported into and exported from Cape Colony during the year ended 31st

December, 1902.

The following is a summarised statement of the return. Figures for the two previous years have been added for the purpose of comparison:—

Agriculture.

Description.	1900.		1901.		1902.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
FRUIT.						
TOTAL IMPORTS.						
DATES—	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
United Kingdom ...	1,844,911	12,077	1,952,168	10,357	2,234,981	12,987
Other countries ...	9,985	91	23,157	127	123,838	626
Total ...	1,854,896	12,168	1,975,325	10,484	2,358,819	13,613
DRIED—						
Currants, raisins and figs—						
United Kingdom ...	846,704	11,889	1,251,778	17,559	1,357,399	16,031
Germany ...	—	—	88,046	565	21,229	183
Other countries ...	20,769	357	52,011	741	93,257	1,185
Total ...	867,473	12,196	1,386,835	18,865	1,471,885	17,399
Other dried fruit—						
United Kingdom ...	65,456	1,354	94,752	1,897	111,781	2,602
Australia ...	3,074	74	97,550	1,794	112,070	2,462
United States ...	612,659	12,432	966,211	17,787	898,887	18,984
Other countries ...	67,509	1,267	96,657	2,109	119,520	2,667
Total ...	748,698	15,127	1,255,170	23,587	1,242,258	26,715
FRESH—						
United Kingdom ...	—	2,062	—	2,266	—	2,162
Australia ...	—	1,591	—	2,265	—	1,768
Natal ...	—	16,617	—	14,512	—	43,962
Madeira ...	—	643	—	4,091	—	2,982
Other countries ...	—	153	—	641	—	1,500
Total ...	—	20,866	—	23,775	—	52,374
EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC PRODUCE.						
DRIED—						
Natal ...	40,646	677	54,975	1,238	—	—
Other countries ...	9,587	149	3,604	115	—	—
Total ...	50,233	826	58,579	1,353	3,816*	105*
FRESH—						
United Kingdom ...	—	6,600	—	5,511	—	5,151
Natal ...	—	1,557	—	2,208	—	1,572
Other countries ...	—	147	—	52	—	18
Total ...	—	8,304	—	7,771	—	6,741

* Chiefly to German West Africa.

Agriculture.

BERMUDA.

According to a report recently issued by the Colonial Office, the cultivation of onions, potatoes, and lily bulbs for the United States markets, are the chief agricultural industries of the Bermudas. The principal market is that of New York.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA AND TOGOLAND.

The following remarks are extracted from the report (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,983*) by Mr. Buchanan, Cotton Cultivation. Secretary to H.M. Embassy at Berlin:—

“The conditions of the soil and climate in Togoland are, it is believed, favourable to the growth of cotton, and the natives by whom it has long been cultivated in many parts of the country have shown considerable readiness and intelligence as regards the adoption of American methods of cultivation. Experimental stations have been started at Tove and other places, under the supervision of American experts, and the cotton is brought down to Lome on mules and oxen, previously inoculated with Dr. Schilling's anti “Surrah” serum, which has been found very efficacious as a preventative of that disease.

“Some 108,000 lbs. of cotton grown during the year 1901-02 from native (Togoland), American, and Egyptian seed were shipped to Bremen, where, on examination by experts, that produced from native seed was pronounced as slightly superior to, and that from American seed slightly inferior to, ‘middling American.’ The Egyptian seed cotton came last in their estimation. Experiments are now being made to produce, by crossing, a variety combining the qualities of both the native and the American cotton plant.

“The reports sent home as to the existence of wild cotton in many parts of the districts between the coast of the East African Protectorate and the Great Lakes, induced the Colonial Economic Committee in June, 1901, to institute similar experiments in that colony. The delta of the Rufiji and the Kilwa district are said to offer the best promises of success, and experiments have already been made in the latter region with Egyptian, American, and Indian seeds. The first of these three seeds appears to have furnished the best results, and the samples of cotton sent home have been classed by the Bremen Cotton Exchange as on a par with Egyptian cotton.

“An expert has recently been sent from East Africa to study cotton growing in the United States, and to select a staff of cotton planters to work under him on his return to the Colony.”

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 28th May was **Cotton Statistics.** 49,907 and the number imported during the 22 weeks ended the 28th May was 2,031,761. As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 28th May, 10,007 bales, and for the 22 weeks, 206,609. For further details see p. 474.

BRITISH INDIA.

A memorandum received at the Board of Trade, through the India Office, states that the quantity of beer brewed in India in 1902 amounted to 6,474,860 gallons, of which 43 per cent. was bought by the Army Commissariat, the remainder being left for consumption by the civil population, or by soldiers independently of the arrangements under the army contracts with the breweries. The average purchases of the Commissariat for the last five years have amounted to 2,768,247 gallons yearly, the average production in the same period having been 5,687,891 gallons. The army therefore consumes under contract nearly half of the production. The troops also consume a substantial quantity outside the contract, though it cannot be specified. Perhaps the total consumption by the troops may extend to two-thirds of the production, the remaining third being drunk by the civil population, mainly Europeans residing in and in the vicinity of the Hill stations.

Twelve of the breweries are situated at stations in the Himalayas from Murree to Darjeeling, and much of the beer is brewed there. A large quantity is also brewed at Lucknow, Rawalpindi, Poona, Bangalore, Jubbulpore, at and near Ootacamund, and at Quetta and Mandalay. The largest of the breweries is at Murree, the Poona brewery standing next. More than one-third of the whole production is brewed in the Panjab.

The quantity of beer brewed in India and imported during the last five years is as follows :—

Brewed in India.		Imported.	
	Gallons.		Gallons.
1898	5,894,087	1898-99	3,227,164
1899	5,568,213	1899-1900	3,207,180
1900	4,947,841	1900-01	3,226,534
1901	5,554,453	1901-02	3,673,844
1902	6,474,860	1902-03	3,820,938

*Miscellaneous.***STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.**

The fortnightly Straits Settlements trade report by Mr. Stuart, the Registrar of Imports and Exports at Singapore, dated 20th April, contains the following reference to the trade of that Colony in 1902.

The trade of the Straits Settlements in 1902 is not regarded as satisfactory, although there were large dollar increases.

Imports were valued at over 311 million dollars exclusive of bullion and specie, or over 26,500,000*l.*, an increase of nearly 10 per cent. in silver, but a decrease of 3½ per cent. in sterling. Exports were valued at over 273½ million dollars or 23,500,000*l.*, an increase of 11½ per cent. in silver and a decrease of 1½ per cent. in gold.

The exports increased in the quantities of the following articles sent out:—Tin with a total of 54,500 tons, tapioca 55,762, copra 50,829, sago 45,328, gambier 41,290, gums 25,157, and coffee 6,186, but decreased in spices, chiefly areca-nuts, with a total trade of 56,008, and rattans with 26,070 tons.

The imports under the various classes so far as the European trade is affected can be judged by the tables given, in which the values are shown for convenience in thousands of dollars, and it may be noted that the demand sterling values at which these have been converted in the two years show 12 per cent. less value in 1902, the sterling demand dollar averaging 1*s.* 11½*d.* in 1901 and 1*s.* 8½*d.* in 1902.

The report itself containing these tables, under separate headings of "Foodstuffs, Liquors, &c.," "European Textiles," "Manufactured Metals," and "Miscellaneous Manufactures," and remarks thereupon, may be seen by those interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

BERMUDA.

The following comparative tables, showing the imports and exports into and from Bermuda for the three years 1900, 1901 and 1902, inclusive, is extracted from a report on that Colony recently issued by the Colonial Office:—

Imports.

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Other British Colonies.	United States of America.	Other Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900 ...	397,136	104,009	31,488	9,932	250,729	978
1901 ...	500,716	142,911	41,167	11,399	296,937	8,302
1902 ...	546,141	155,675	52,110	13,523	321,487	8,346

Miscellaneous.

In the above figures the value of the Government stores—civil, naval, and military—is not included. The estimated quantity of such stores imported into the Colony during 1902 was 14,616 tons, valued at 215,027*l*. The value of the total imports into the Colony during the year, inclusive of Government stores and specie, was 801,189*l*.

Exports.

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Other British Colonies.	United States of America.	Other Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900	93,769	4,683	2,071	1,299	85,599	117
1901	98,479	3,333	1,036	3,456	90,654	—
1902	111,135	6,328	1,753	2,202	100,730	122

GERMANY.

The report of H.M. Consul at Stettin, recently issued by the Foreign Office (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,977*), contains very full particulars of the salted herring trade of that port. Tables are given showing the total imports of the various descriptions of salted herrings during each of the years 1898–1902 together with the prices for new herrings at the end of each of the months June to December, 1902, and the prices for old herrings at the beginning of each of the months January to May, 1902.

GERMANY—BAVARIA.

In his report on the trade of Nuremberg for the year 1902, the British Vice-Consul at that place states that **Carbon Trade of Nuremberg.** Nuremberg carbon manufacturers—the most important in Germany—report that the trade has been about the same as in the previous year. Orders have been received in sufficient quantities, but in many instances the keen competition between the leading houses has brought down prices so as to make them unprofitable. Orders, especially those of large consumers, such as Government and corporation offices and railway companies, have been accepted at prices which leave no margin for profit, in fact are often below manufacturing cost. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,971.*)

*Miscellaneous.***GERMAN WEST AFRICA.**

In a report on the German Colonies, recently issued by the Foreign Office, Mr. Buchanan, Secretary to H.M. Embassy at Berlin, quotes a report of Colonel Pavel's journey from Garua to Lake Chad which describes the country north of the Benué as rich and well cultivated. Cotton and rubber were found in considerable quantities, and fields of maize, corn, rice, and sugar cane bore witness to the fertility of its soil. Dikoa is spoken of as the centre of an important trade, of which the principal articles are coffee, sugar, velvet, silks, weapons, as well as gold and silver objects brought by the caravans from Tripoli.

**Trade and
Agriculture of
the Benué and
Dikoa Districts.**

GERMANY—SAMOA.

It is also stated in this report that in Samoa the importation of Chinese coolies, under Government control, has had to be resorted to, in consequence of the persistent refusal of the natives to engage in any regular kind of work. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,983.*)

**Chinese
Immigration.**

FRANCE.

The British Vice-Consul at Boulogne reports that the high protective duty has reduced the importation of fresh sea fish into that port to a little more than a tenth of its amount in 1892; from the same cause the importation of horses is less than half what it was five years ago. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,976.*)

**Reduced Imports
of Fresh Fish
and Horses at
Boulogne.**

TURKEY.

H.M. Consul at Aleppo reports that the American Tobacco Trust has bought out the most important liquorice firms in New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, which formerly purchased the root direct from Syria, and has accumulated a stock of about 90,000 tons, which is sufficient to supply the American market for nearly three years. It has, therefore, no further need of supplies from Alexandretta, so that large stocks remain unsold in the hands of the former contractors. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,970.*)

**Unsold Stocks of
Liquorice Root at
Alexandretta.**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

H.M. Consul-General at New York reports that in former years the importation of indigo from India averaged about 2,000,000 lbs., representing over 50 per cent. of the total importation into the United States, the chief ports of entry being New York and Boston. During the year 1902 the importation of this article from India at the port of

**Indigo Imports
into New York.**

Miscellaneous.

New York was reduced to very small proportions during the first six months, viz., 239,500 lbs., valued at 30,600*l.*, and ceased entirely after the month of June. The cause is no doubt the impossibility of maintaining competition with the product derived from coal-tar. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,972.*)

BRAZIL.

The following table showing the value of the imports into Brazil during the first nine months of 1902, distinguishing the principal countries from which imported, is compiled from official statistics published in the "Brazilian Review" of

28th April:—

	Value in Milreis.	Value in Sterling.
United Kingdom	93,770,979	4,634,265
United States	42,421,018	2,098,180
Germany	37,535,857	1,855,320
Argentina	30,849,053	1,496,683
France	28,167,396	1,392,189
Portugal	24,599,110	1,216,498
Other countries	183,882,485	4,146,355
Total imports	349,725,898	16,889,490

Eliminating January, for which returns of imports are incomplete for 1901, imports for the eight months, February to September, 1902, show an increase in value, over the corresponding period of 1901, of 24,225,101 milreis, or 8·6 per cent., equivalent at the corresponding rates of exchange to an increase in sterling value of 1,913,422*l.* or 14·6 per cent., the difference between the percentage of increase in currency and sterling values being, of course, the effect of higher average exchanges, the average rate on London for the eight months, February to September, having risen 5 per cent., from 11½*d.* to 11¾*d.*

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a report by the British Vice-Consul at

Trade Routes. Bogota on the means and ways of communication in the Republic of Colombia.

This report, which deals exhaustively with the routes by means of which trade may be opened up, may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

REPORTS OF BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Birmingham.—A special meeting of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce was held on the 27th May, at which a resolution was adopted in support of the Colonial Secretary's suggestions as to preferential trade with the Colonies.

The Tariff Committee of the Chamber was instructed to make a report on the matter, and to add, if desirable, to its number further representatives of the trading interests of the city and district.

Bradford.—A meeting of the Council of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce was held on the 27th May, 1903. Mr. John Waugh delivered an address on "Cotton-growing in the Soudan," in course of which he stated that it was estimated that there were fifteen millions of acres south and east and west of the junction of the Blue and White Niles available and suitable for cotton-growing. Of these, thousands of acres were in the gift of the Government, if they were willing to make grants, and on easy terms otherwise, and on this land cotton would, he considered, pay well for the trouble and the outlay of cultivation and irrigation. There was no difficulty about labour. Mr. Waugh alluded to the difficulties of transport, and quoted from a letter written to him by Count Gleichen to the effect that the Soudan Government had reluctantly come to the conclusion that the high rates which the Soudan railway was obliged to charge rendered early development of the cotton industry impossible. The Suakim-Berber railway, which it was hoped might be finished in a couple of years, would permit of very much lower rates being charged and the question could then be taken in hand.

Other matters considered were: the Trades Disputes Bill, Sheep Dips Committee, Income Tax Assessment of Foreign Firms, and the Canadian Preferential Tariff.

Leeds.—At a meeting of the Council of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce, held on the 26th May, with Alderman J. H. Wurtzburg (President) in the chair, four representatives to serve as members of the new executive body under the Education Act were nominated.

The Council agreed to associate itself with the movement for facilitating the friendly settlement of Anglo-French difficulties.

It was decided to hold a special meeting on the question of preferential trade with the Colonies.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 22 Weeks ended 28th May, 1903.

	Week ended 28th May, 1903.	22 Weeks ended 28th May, 1903.	Week ended 28th May, 1903.	22 Weeks ended 28th May, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	44,965	1,596,946	8,273	102,477
Brasilian	1,876	107,198	331	19,806
East Indian	1,602	74,947	550	16,728
Egyptian	990	230,346	622	63,396
Miscellaneous:	474	22,324	231	4,204
Total	49,907	2,031,761	10,007	206,609

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 30th May, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

		Average Price.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 30th May, 1903	... ..	27	8	23	7	18	5
Corresponding week in—							
1896 ... ..	...	25	5	21	6	14	8
1897 ... ..	...	27	10	20	8	17	9
1898 ... ..	...	46	3	26	10	21	0
1899 ... ..	...	25	4	24	4	18	1
1900 ... ..	...	25	5	24	4	18	6
1901 ... ..	...	27	7	23	8	19	9
1902 ... ..	...	31	6	25	1	22	10

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of April, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that Volume I of the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1902, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 11d. at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country). The second volume will contain details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 16th May:—State of the Labour Market in April; Workmen's Co-operative Productive Societies; the Railway Dispute in Victoria (Australia); Factories and Shops Law of Victoria—Report of Royal Commission; Labour Disputes and Conciliation and Arbitration in France in 1901; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the *Annual and Miscellaneous Series* issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,984. Trade and Laws of the Faroe Islands.

Good prospects for starting a line of steamers from the United Kingdom and for opening up trade.

Occupations and requirements of the Faroe islanders.

Detailed account of the fishing industry.

Comparative table of exports.

Notes on Laws affecting traders.

Digest and translations of Laws.

Government Publications.

No. 2,985. Canton, 1902.

Extensive development of foreign exports, especially silk.

Hindrances to the passage of foreign imports into the interior.

Notes on increasing imports.

Comparative tables of principal articles of import and export, with observations as to character of trade.

Shipping returns.

No. 2,986. Pernambuco and Ceara, 1902.

Import trade declining, owing to general poverty, and export trade depressed owing to high rate of exchange.

Detailed statistics of imports and exports.

Shipping returns.

MISCELLANEOUS.**No. 591. German Technical High Schools.**

Their growth and aims, and their influence on industrial progress.

General organization; professional staff; some of the salaries; description of the courses and fees for same.

Revenue and expenditure.

State aid.

Plan of instruction.

Attendance at the various courses.

Examinations.

Regulations for foreign students.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following reports have been issued by the Colonial Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," viz.:—

No. 384. St. Lucia.

No. 385. St. Vincent.

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

The following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the *Annual and Miscellaneous Series* since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the *Miscellaneous Series* are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
EUROPE—					
Denmark:					
2934	Denmark (Supplementary) 1901	1 <i>d.</i>	2958	Servia 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2984	Faroe Islands —	2½ <i>d.</i>	Spain:		
France and Colonies:			2924	Bilbao 1901	2½ <i>d.</i>
2949	Brest 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2964	Bilbao 1902	2 <i>d.</i>
2976	Calais "	2 <i>d.</i>	Turkey:		
2955	Cherbourg "	1½ <i>d.</i>	2970	Aleppo and Adana ... 1902	2 <i>d.</i>
2941	French Guinea 1901	½ <i>d.</i>	2950	Constantinople "	2 <i>d.</i>
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	½ <i>d.</i>	2932	Crete 1901	1 <i>d.</i>
2960	Havre "	3 <i>d.</i>	2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899-1901	2 <i>d.</i>
2966	Indo-China "	½ <i>d.</i>	2962	Palestine 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2978	Nantes "	1 <i>d.</i>	589	<i>Mining Industries and Forestry in Turkey</i> ...	3 <i>d.</i>
German Empire and Colonies:			AFRICA—		
2982	Baden 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2971	Bavaria-Nuremberg ... "	1 <i>d.</i>	2948	Somaliland Protectorate ... 1901-02	2½ <i>d.</i>
2956	Chemnitz "	1 <i>d.</i>	588	<i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda</i>	½ <i>d.</i>
2945	Estimates of the German Empire 1903	1 <i>d.</i>	AMERICA, NORTH—		
2959	Germany 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	United States of America:		
2983	German Colonies 1901-02	2 <i>d.</i>	2967	Boston 1902	2½ <i>d.</i>
2977	Pomerania 1902	3 <i>d.</i>	2952	Chicago "	4 <i>d.</i>
591	<i>German Technical High Schools</i>	3 <i>d.</i>	2942	New Orleans "	2½ <i>d.</i>
Greece:			2972	New York "	1½ <i>d.</i>
2957	Cyclades 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>
2953	Morea, and Provinces of Acarnania and Etolia 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	2968	Texas "	2 <i>d.</i>
2947	Thessaly "	1½ <i>d.</i>	587	<i>Coal Industry of the United States in 1901</i>	2 <i>d.</i>
Italy:			Mexico:		
2930	Finances of Italy 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2925	Mexico 1901	2½ <i>d.</i>
2933	Italy 1901	3 <i>d.</i>	2951	Mexico City 1902	2½ <i>d.</i>
2936	Naples 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	AMERICA, CENTRAL—		
2935	Venice 1901-02	1½ <i>d.</i>	2963	Nicaragua 1901	½ <i>d.</i>
Netherlands and Colonies:					
2965	Amsterdam 1902	1 <i>d.</i>			
2974	Java "	1½ <i>d.</i>			
Portugal:					
2954	Portugal 1902	½ <i>d.</i>			
Russia:					
2979	Batoum 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>			
2943	Odesa (Supplementary) 1901	1½ <i>d.</i>			

Government Publications.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
AMERICA, SOUTH—			ASIA—		
Argentina:			China:		
2940	Argentine finances 1901-02	1½d.	2985	Canton 1902	1½d.
2961	Buenos Ayres 1902	1½d.	2975	Chinkiang "	1d.
Brazil:			2969	Hankow "	1½d.
2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	½d.	Persia:		
2986	Pernambuco and Ceara ..	1d.	590	Trade and General Con-	
2928	Rio de Janeiro ... 1901	1½d.		dition of the City and	
Chile:				Province of Kermanshah..	4d.
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WEST INDIES—			2929	Chiengmai 1901	1d.
2927	Hayti 1901	1d.	PACIFIC ISLANDS—		
			2937	Samoa 1902	1d.

Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources:—

No.		Price.
EUROPE—		
Belgium:		
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries... ..	½d.
Denmark:		
5	Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark for regulating the fisheries outside territorial waters in the ocean surrounding the Farø Islands and Iceland... ..	7½d.
France:		
3	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1d.
AMERICA, NORTH—		
United States of America:		
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska	½d.

Government Publications.

No.		Price.
	AMERICA, CENTRAL—	
	Guatemala.	
6	Accession of Guatemala to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field.	½d.
	ASIA—	
	Corea :	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	½d.
7	International Convention relative to bounties on sugar ...	1½d.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C. :—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½d.
378	British Guiana	2½d.
379	Mauritius	3½d.
380	Basutoland	3d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2½d.
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½d.
—	Cyprus	3d.
383	Bermuda	1½d.
384	St. Lucia	2d.
385	St. Vincent	2d.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1d. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

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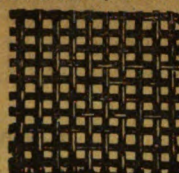
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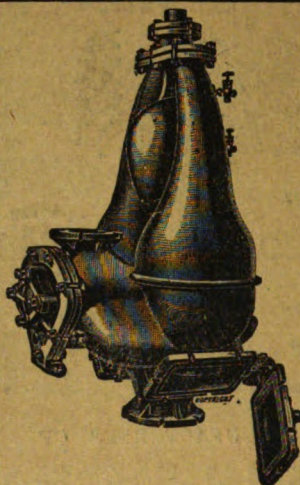
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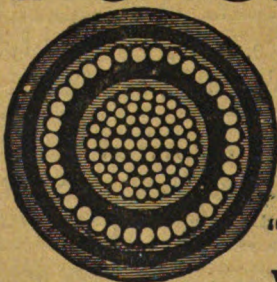
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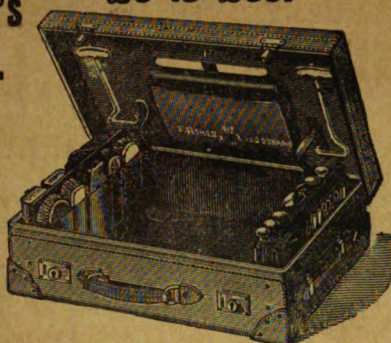
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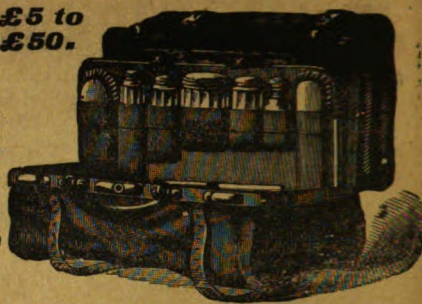
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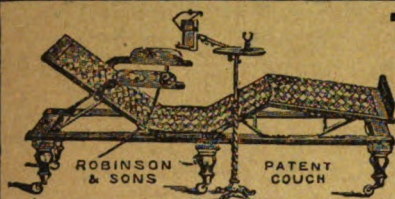
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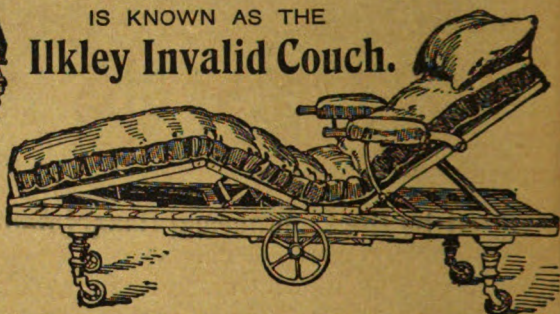


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THE PASTEUR-CHAMBERLAND FILTER.

The British Medical Journal (August 25, 1894) says:—"Its application for some years in 200,000 quarters of the French Army has shown that it is effectual in preventing epidemics of Cholera, Typhoid Fever, Diarrhoea, and similar diseases."

M. de Freycinet (Report of Minister of War to President of the French Republic, *Journal Officiel*, Feb. 14, 1892), says:—"Wherever the Pasteur Filter has been applied to water previously bad, typhoid fever has disappeared."

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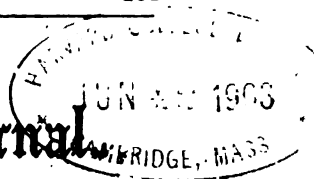
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THE
Board of Trade Journal



Vol. XLI.]**June 11, 1903.****[No. 341.]**

In a notice on p. 528 will be found a statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade having special regard to the recent transfer to the Board of Trade of the Imperial Institute. The main office of the Branch is at present at No. 50, Parliament Street, S.W., with a temporary enquiry office at 49, Eastcheap, E.C., the City Branch of the Imperial Institute.

Attention is directed to the fact that trade representatives of India, and of certain Colonies which are named below, can be consulted at the City Branch on matters relative to the trade of the respective countries.

A Representative for India attends on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

A Representative for the Dominion of Canada attends daily by appointment.

A Representative for Queensland attends daily from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Commercial Agency for New South Wales is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on pp. 521-2.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply covered goods waggons and wheels and axles.

**Tenders for
Railway
Material.**

The conditions of contract may be obtained

A

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—continued.

on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by two o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 16th June, 1903, after which time no tender will be received.

The Board of Trade have been notified by the East Indian Railway Company to the effect that the Company is prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of—
30 Tank Engines,

as per specification to be seen at the Company's offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Tank Engines," not later than 1 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the 1st day of July.

The Company reserves to itself the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For each specification a fee of 1*l.* 1*s.* is charged, which cannot under any circumstances be returned.

CANADA.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Enquiries relating Offices, Victoria Street, S.W., where further to Canadian Trade. information may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A Cardiff firm desire to secure the agency for South Wales of a large shipper of Canadian hay.

A London house is desirous of being placed in communication with parties in Canada in a position to export mica in the raw and manufactured state, and manufactured copper for electrical purposes.

A firm in the Midlands desire to hear from Canadian poultry exporters.

Enquiry is made for names of Canadian shippers of box-shooks who can take orders for delivery in the fall:—Sizes, (1) 26 ins. by 19½ ins. by 13½ ins.; (2) 26 ins. by 19½ ins. by 10½ ins.

A practical Portland cement manufacturer in England desires to hear from small capitalists in Canada with a view to opening a cement factory there, for local and export trade. He is stated to be the inventor of a special process ensuring manufacture at an exceptionally low cost.

Canadian Enquiry.—A Canadian coal importer has asked to be placed in communication with large operators in Welsh anthracite.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—continued.

Foreign Enquiries.—Enquiry is made on behalf of a wholesale grocery firm in Russia having good connections, for names of first-class houses in Canada exporting canned salmon and canned lobster.

A Norwegian firm have asked to be placed in communication with large milling houses in Canada, as well as with pork packers and manufacturers of oleo oil, lard, &c.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the Canadian Enquiries relating Section of the Imperial Institute, from the Curator of which Section further particulars to Canadian Trade. may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A firm manufacturing ventilating appliances are prepared to appoint suitable Canadian resident agent to take up the sale of their goods.

An enquiry has been made for the names of Canadian wholesale houses wishing to import teas direct from India and Ceylon.

The manufacturers of a patent wire strainer wish to arrange with some Canadian manufacturer of tools to take up the manufacture and sale of this article for the Dominion of Canada.

Canadian Enquiries.—A firm of Canadian wine growers seek an outlet for grape juice, i.e., unfermented grape wine in quantity, and invite correspondence from buyers of same.

A Canadian firm of mica producers and dealers wish to hear from United Kingdom importers of the mineral.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—NEW SOUTH WALES.

Information has been received from the Agent-General for New South Wales that tenders are being invited in Sydney, by the Railway Commissioners for New South Wales, for an additional generating set of 1,500 kilowatts for their tramway power station. Tenders may be submitted for either reciprocating or turbine engines.

Full conditions for tendering are expected to be available at the office of the Agent-General, 9, Victoria Street, S.W., early in July. Tenders close in Sydney on the 12th September next.

Openings for British Trade.

CAPE COLONY.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 15th May announces that tenders are invited for the following monthly supplies of steam coal for the use of the Cape Government railways during the period 1st January, 1904, to 31st December, 1904:—

8,000 tons of 2,240 lbs. for the Western system.

2,000 " " " Midland system.

Tenders for the description of Welsh steam coal as approved and accepted by the Admiralty, and for Natal, Australian, and New Zealand steam coal will only be considered.

Alternative tenders are required for shipments by steamer and by sailing vessels, and also for delivery c.i.f. Cape Town and Algoa Bay, and for delivery into railway trucks, Cape Town Docks and Port Elizabeth South Jetty.

Forms of tender, conditions of contract, and all other particulars may be obtained at the Railway Stores Offices, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted, and the Government reserves to itself the right to accept the whole or any portion of the quantities tendered for.

Sealed tenders (in original only) addressed to the Controller and Auditor-General, Cape Town, and marked outside "Tender for Coal," will be received up to noon on Monday, 6th July, 1903.

DENMARK.

The "Berlingske Tidende" of the 2nd June contains a notice calling for tenders for the supply of certain articles, including various classes of cloth, gold lace, silver and gilt and silvered lace, sword tassels, buttons, caps, &c., for the use of the Danish Army Clothing Department. Tenders will be opened at 11 a.m. on the 19th June, at the Office of the Commissary of Stores, 11, Rigersgade, Copenhagen. The list of articles required, with quantities, can be seen at the Office of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., on any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), and conditions of tender and samples can be inspected at the Office of the Commissary of Stores, Copenhagen, on any working day, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

DENMARK—FAROE ISLANDS.

H.M. Consul at Thorshavn states in his recent report that builders or owners of small craft suitable for working cargo from vessels which lie in the open harbours (there are no ports or piers), for

**Steam-tugs and
Coasting Vessels.**

Openings for British Trade.

DENMARK—FAROE ISLANDS—*continued.*

towing sailing vessels and for similar harbour work, would find they could supply a need. In this connection the Consul adds that aliens have equal rights with natives to engage in the coasting trade among the Faroe Islands, and also in that between these islands and other places, including the remaining possessions of Denmark, except that foreign vessels have the right to carry cargo only provided that they are over 30 tons register (Law of 21st March, 1855, section 3, and Law on Measurement of Ships of 18th May, 1867, section 27). (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,984.*)

Further on in his report H.M. Consul observes that no British merchant vessel has entered at the Faroe Islands during the two past years in the interests of trade or commerce.

Trade for British Steamers.

There is a market there for almost all the necessaries of a simple life, as enjoyed by about 15,000 persons; a market within 200 miles of Scotland (Shetland Isles) unvisited by British merchant vessels.

After referring to the delays incidental to the receipt of cargo by the Danish mail steamers calling at Leith, the Consul says there is no reason why a British port, more northerly, should not be the base of supply, thus diminishing the distance of the present route to Leith; but Leith freights, from and to, at present prevailing, will act as a guide.

The following examples may be mentioned; rates per ton from Leith to Faroe Islands, to which add "shipping charges for bills of lading, port delivery, &c." :—

Salt, cement and lime, 12*s.* 6*d.*; iron and steel, bars, plates, corrugated, 17*s.* 6*d.*; tobacco, coffee, window glass, condensed milk, 1*l.* 5*s.*; iron and steel wares, such as rails, &c., 1*l.* 7*s.*; fine biscuits, in boxes, 2*l.*; tea, 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; earthenware, in crates or barrels, 5*d.* per cubic foot; glassware, matches, preserves, toilet soap, smoking tobacco, manufactured goods (such as furniture), wines and spirits in cases, 8*d.* per cubic foot; petroleum, 5*s.* per barrel.

Statistical information as to importation is not obtainable, but it may be expected that if a good service of steamers were once established, trade between the United Kingdom and the Faroe Islands would doubtless increase. What is needed is regularity, throughout the year, and reasonable charges. The advantage of the considerably less distance of transport should be sufficient to enable a British line to secure the bulk of the trade in supplying the Faroe Islands.

Openings for British Trade.

DENMARK—FAROE ISLANDS—*continued.*

Vessels from Scotland should be able to compete successfully against vessels from Copenhagen to a place that lies some 500 miles nearer the former than the latter. There are no import or export duties, except on alcoholic liquors.

It is the Consul's opinion that a shopkeeper thoroughly alive to modern business methods and European Domestic Articles. markets, who studied local needs and fancies, should prosper in the Faroe Islands. Retail prices are high. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,984.*)

In the same report the attention of fishermen is drawn to two banks recently discovered, and approximately located by official Danish survey as announced in the Danish "Notice to Mariners"—"Efterretninger for Søfarende"—No. 37, of 10th September, 1902, which can be obtained from the K. D. Søkort Arkiv in Copenhagen for 10 öre (1½d.).

Two banks with less than 100 fathoms of water are thus described:—

1. Suderö Bank.—The west edge is situated about 13 miles due east of Porkere Næs on Suderö, and about five miles from the 100 fathoms curve east of the island (Suderö). It has an extension to N.N.E. and S.S.W. of about 15 miles, and to east and west of six to ten miles. The minimum depth of 67 fathoms is on the middle of the bank, 20 miles due east of Hoddatange.

2. Bank east of Sandö.—West edge is situated about 26 miles due east of Skaalhoved on Sandö, and about eight miles from the 100 fathom curve east of the island (Sandö). It has an extension to north and south of about 20 miles and to east and west of about 11 miles. The minimum depth, 76 fathoms, is nearly on the middle of the bank.

Both banks have sandy bottoms with small stones, and occasionally shells and gravel.

Between the 100 fathoms curve east of the islands and the banks, as also in the channel, about 10 miles broad between the banks, the depths are from 100 to 180 fathoms and more.

As the result of complete surveys, moreover, a new chart of the Faroe Islands will soon be issued by the Danish authorities.

H.M. Consul records a satisfactory relaxation in the fishing laws, which are fully set forth in his report. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,984.*)

*Openings for British Trade.***PORTUGAL.**

The "Diario do Governo" of 5th June contains a notice calling for tenders, which may be presented up to mid-day on 15th idem, and which will be opened at noon on the following day, for a large quantity of supplies for the Navy; among these may be noticed: a long list of tissues, both cotton, woollen, and linen, for which the provisional deposit required from tenderers is 220 milreis, or about 39%, implying a value of about 1,560%; a list of coir fibre and jute goods to the value of about 780%; a list of timber supplies to the value of about 1,560%, &c.

Tenders are also asked for further supplies, but of smaller values, two days later.

The "Diario" containing the above notice may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 1st June contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened in the "Direccion general de Administracion local," Madrid, and simultaneously in the "Casa Consistorial," Torrelavega, at noon on 6th July next, for the construction of waterworks for bringing water from the mountains of Colucillos for the use of the city of Torrelavega, province of Santander, at the upset price of 361,687.41 pesetas, or about 10,554%. The plan of the work with the sheet of technical conditions is on view in the offices named. A provisional deposit of 5 per cent, is required to qualify any tender.

SPAIN—CANARY ISLANDS.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 7th June contains a Decree authorising the substitution of electric power for steam power on the tramway line from Las Palmas to the port of La Luz.

The same "Gaceta" contains an Order calling for tenders, which will be opened simultaneously in Barcelona, Madrid, and Cartagena at 12.30 on 30th June, for the supply to the Arsenal in the last-named town of two steel boilers for the floating dock, in accordance with the plans attached to the sheet of conditions, which is on view in the Secretariat of the Arsenal, in the Central Offices, and in the Admiralty Office at Barcelona, at the upset price of 25,000 pesetas;

Openings for British Trade.

or about 730*l*. A provisional deposit of 5 per cent. is required to qualify any tender.

The "Gaceta" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

MEXICO.

The "Diario Oficial" of Mexico of 13th May contains a copy of a contract between the Government and Mr. Guillermo Purcell for the construction and working for 89 years by the latter, on his own account or on account of the company or companies which he may organise for the purpose, of a railway 914 of a metre gauge, with the right to place a third rail to widen the gauge from a point between the stations of Avalos and Concepcion de Oro on the railway between Coahuila and Zacatecas, passing by the Bonanza estate to or near the mining district of San Pedro Ocampo in the State of Zacatecas.

The contract allows importation free of a certain amount of material and plant for the construction and equipment in the first instance of the railway, telegraph and telephone line and their accessories, and imposes maximum rates of freight and passage.

The "Diario" containing the above notice may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

CHINA.

H.M. Consul-General at Canton states, in his recent report on the trade of that district, that the demand for flour among Chinese emigrants returned from California and other parts of America continues, so much so that the quantity imported in 1902 exceeded that of 1901 by 854,744 cwts., and was also some 700,000 cwts. in excess of the average for the past five years.

It is also remarked that the Cantonese are taking, in large and increasing numbers, to the use of clocks and watches, and a little encouragement would open up a good market. The average number imported during the last five years was 4,000, but in 1902 the total reached 13,790.

Further on in his report, H.M. Consul-General refers to printing paper as "a new import on a large scale," and states that there is a growing demand for this article, the Chinese themselves being unable to manufacture any but the thinnest and most flimsy kind.

Openings for British Trade.

CHINA—*continued.*

The same report records that the Cantonese are taking in increasing numbers to the smoking of cheap foreign cigars and cigarettes. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,985.*)

Cigars and
Cigarettes.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

With reference to the notices published on pp. 342-3 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 21st May, a statement has been received at the Board of Trade from Mr. George F. Parker, Commissioner in this country for the St. Louis Exhibition, calling attention to the magnitude of the trade between the United Kingdom and the United States, and arguing that if France and Germany with respectively 88 and 112 million dollars' worth of imports into the United States in 1902 can do as much as they are doing to advertise their goods at the exhibition, British manufacturers with 180 million dollars' worth in the same year must find it to their advantage not to be behind.

Mr. Parker adds "When it is recognised that the general import trade from Europe to the United States has increased by 55 per cent. since the end of the Spanish war of 1898, while that from Great Britain has doubled during the same five year period, it is, plainly, a quantity which cannot safely be neglected. This conclusion derives additional force when it is borne in mind that the markets to be reached at St. Louis make a continually growing demand for articles of art and luxury."

Mr. Parker also points out a special possible advantage to be gained by visiting the Exhibition, viz.:—"Even if no new and direct demand for imported manufactured products should come from the United States, the exhibitor at St. Louis will be able, during a few months, to come into contact with more probable customers from Canada, the British West Indies, Porto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, and Central and South America, than he could see or reach at a great expense, during many years of the widely diffused effort he would have to make. He will be able to see there, and at a glance, what is wanted and what steps his rivals are taking to meet new, varied, and growing demands."

BRAZIL.

With reference to the notice on p. 200 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 30th April last, the "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" (Paris) of the 4th June reports that the International Exhibition of the Industrial Appliances of Alcohol at Rio de Janeiro will take place from the 2nd to 31st August next.

Applications for space should be made to the Exhibition Committee, Rio de Janeiro, before the 1st July.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Nantes.—The following remarks are taken from the recent report of H.M. Consul at Nantes :—

"In the Consular district of Nantes, which comprises the Departments of Loire Inférieure, La Vendée, Maine-et-Loire, Deux Sevres, Indre, Indre-et-Loire, Vienne, Cher and Loire-et-Cher, I regret to say that there is a general and progressive fall of trade in nearly all manufactured articles in which British traders are interested, and I do not know of any in which there is the prospect of considerable expansion. Nor is it to be expected, because the reduction in the sale of these articles is owing to the competition of native manufactures with those of a similar nature which the United Kingdom formerly supplied, and at cheaper rates than British merchants can now sell them.

"These manufactures have been created by protective duties, against British goods of a like class, while the French-made articles are in themselves very good as well as reasonable in price, having not only the advantage of the import duty, but also of cheap labour and longer working hours to reduce the cost of producing them.

"It is entirely a question of price, and I do not believe that the United Kingdom can sell cheaply enough to compete with these protected goods except in the case of proprietary articles, or those for which the demand is not sufficiently large to make it worth while to produce them in France. The most formidable rival in France to the British trader is undoubtedly his French competitor, who has made great progress. He was created by protection originally, and at first the articles he made were not so good, but with practice and experience he has improved enormously, and now turns out excellent work.

"There is also this to be taken into account, that protective duties have led to great competition in France, resulting in over-production, and the surplus must be got rid of, and in most cases this can only be done by exporting it.

"In connection with exports I may mention that a notable feature in my correspondence with traders in the United Kingdom of late has been the increasing number of persons who want to buy French instead of wishing to sell British goods." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,978.*)

Tripoli.—H.M. Consul-General at Tripoli states in his recent report that during the last 30 years the annual average value of the total trade of that port, exports and imports combined, taking good and bad years together, has been 770,000*l.*, with an annual average balance of trade against the country of 6,300*l.*, spent in importing bread-stuffs to make up local deficiencies. Further, Tripoli presents at the present time no means of extending its existing powers of production and consumption, nor any opening for the introduction of any new branch of trade. Goods of the cheapest, and consequently of inferior, description can alone command a sale. At the

British Trade Abroad.

same time competition is of the keenest, the number of merchants and commission agents being apparently in excess of the requirements of its trade, and thus profits are cut down to the lowest limit, and many articles of large importation and consumption are sold at cost price to induce the purchase of others the sale of which still commands a small profit. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,981.*)

Baden.—In a recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series, 2,982*), H.M. Consul at Mannheim makes the following observations regarding the trade and industry of the Grand Duchy of Baden:—
“Optimistic utterances are not wanting, but the general feeling seems to be governed by want of confidence in the future; and, until that changes and gives way to a better opinion, enterprise can hardly be restored.

“There are other elements than the proposed higher Tariff that threaten to make all import duties, and therewith all trade treaties, more or less illusory and useless. The chief one is the Trust system. A nation whose principal branches of industry are brought to a state of the highest efficiency and economy by such combinations, possesses an obvious advantage over its foreign rivals who, for one reason or another, have not made such progress in organisation. It is not easy for a foreign country to frame import duties that shall fully counterbalance such advantage, and at the same time enable its own industries to compete in the markets of the world. Other things being equal, superior organisation tells, and must tell, in the long run, all protection notwithstanding. Under the inspiring energy and prosperity of the last quarter of a century, German industry has made such strides that its productive capacity now vastly exceeds its own consuming capacity; and this now constitutes one of its chief difficulties.

“Controlling every department of industry, the numerous Trusts exist at one another's expense by obliging every manufacturer to pay more for almost every article he requires, and consequently compelling him in turn to charge higher prices, therewith diminishing his power to compete in foreign markets. This forms a serious drawback. The operation of the double scale of prices was strikingly illustrated by a statement in the Reichstag that shipbuilders on the Rhine could buy materials cheaper after their exportation to the Netherlands than they were able to obtain them from the makers direct. That, perhaps, is an exceptional case. The majority of the German syndicates are, I think, wisely managed. They do not, as a rule, seek to raise prices, but to prevent a fall, and bring about stability.”

Pernambuco.—In a recent report on the trade of Pernambuco, H.M. Consul at that port again calls attention to the fact that the decimal and metric system of weights and measures are used in trade, and recommends manufacturers to furnish their would-be customers with the necessary information and details of goods in the

British Trade Abroad.

Portuguese language, and that they should adopt the metric system in their calculation of weights and measures.

The Consul says it is quite useless to send catalogues and price lists printed in English and quoting British weights and measures. The import trade is almost exclusively carried on by the intermediary of commercial travellers, who thus establish a direct correspondence between shipping houses in Europe and dealers in Pernambuco. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,986.*)

Bussorah.—H.M. Consul at Bussorah in his recent report describes the requirements of the inland Arabs as few and simple, consisting principally of cotton prints for clothing, cotton and silk handkerchiefs for head coverings, sugar, coffee, and enamelled iron-ware. Hitherto these articles have been imported through Koweit and Bussorah, but for two years past the constant hostilities between the Emir of Nejd and his competitors have rendered the caravan routes from the East unsafe, and the interior has been supplied through Damascus, and to some extent from Samawa on the Lower Euphrates.

The cotton goods mentioned above come almost exclusively from Manchester, the silk handkerchiefs from Baghdad and Syria, the sugar from France, and the enamelled ware from Austria-Hungary. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,987.*)

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN MAY, 1903.*

I.—GENERAL.

The trade returns for May, 1903, show a decrease in the value as compared with the corresponding month of 1902 of the **Imports** into the United Kingdom, but an increase in the **Exports** of British produce, and also of the **Exports** of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the **Imports** in May, 1903, was 41,915,106*l.*, a decrease of 1,438,599*l.*, or 3·3 per cent., as compared with those in May, 1902, whilst the total **Exports** amounted to 30,270,579*l.*, showing a total increase of 2,181,858*l.* The **Exports** of British produce alone show an increase of 1,495,052*l.*, or 6·5 per cent., as compared with May, 1902, whilst there is an increase of 686,806*l.*, or 13·1 per cent., in the **Exports** of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

II.—IMPORTS.†

The following table shows the value of the **Imports** for May, 1903, as compared with the corresponding months of 1902 and 1901, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

* Reference should be made to the article on "The Changes in the Monthly Trade Accounts," published at pp. 296-300 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 12th February, for information as to the changes which have been made in these Accounts.

† The values of the **Imports** represent the cost, insurance and freight; or when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in May, 1903.***Imports from Foreign Countries and British Possessions.**

	Month of May.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour	4,971,967	6,379,165	5,369,510	— 979,655	+ 337,533
B. Meat, including animals for food.	4,380,894	4,557,627	4,107,065	— 450,563	— 192,829
C. Other food and drink—					
1. Non-dutiable	4,565,058	4,871,598	4,950,539	+ 78,336	+ 445,471
2. Dutiable	3,137,365	2,650,422	3,412,456	+ 762,034	+ 285,091
D. Tobacco	306,913	367,645	262,546	— 105,099	— 44,367
Total, Class I. ...	£ 17,211,317	18,736,452	18,032,106	— 694,346	+ 320,889
II.—Raw Materials and Articles					
Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke, and patent fuel ...	567	191	4	— 187	— 563
B. Iron ore, scrap iron, and steel ...	370,817	444,701	415,912	+ 28,789	+ 45,085
C. Other metallic ores	487,329	457,574	506,919	+ 49,345	+ 19,690
D. Wood and timber	2,163,067	1,479,653	1,371,744	+ 368,091	+ 230,323
E. Cotton	2,963,037	2,419,492	2,132,300	+ 287,392	+ 230,837
F. Wool	2,606,565	2,374,554	2,112,390	+ 162,355	+ 486,316
G. Other textile materials	1,161,068	1,213,343	886,590	— 326,753	— 295,078
H. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums	1,063,147	2,354,026	2,051,322	— 302,694	+ 188,185
I. Hides and undressed skins	699,792	692,379	652,572	+ 60,193	+ 47,220
J. Materials for paper making	349,790	238,426	328,505	+ 90,079	+ 21,365
K. Miscellaneous	1,419,177	1,605,456	1,460,062	— 145,374	+ 40,905
Total, Class II. ...	£ 14,106,876	13,079,796	12,419,129	— 680,666	— 1,687,747
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof†	563,036	628,895	675,958	+ 47,063	+ 112,922
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof†	1,562,861	1,626,187	1,441,421	— 186,716	— 141,440
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments	426,493	424,370	414,784	— 9,586	— 11,608
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus	—	—	979	+ 979	+ 979
E. Machinery	414,899	536,215	436,928	+ 100,287	+ 21,029
F. Ships (new)	—	—	651	+ 651	+ 651
G. Manufactures of wood and timber (including furniture)	225,117	342,850	219,390	— 23,451	— 5,718
H. Yarns and textile fabrics—					
1. Cotton	401,834	464,426	599,663	+ 135,237	+ 197,829
2. Wool	964,375	962,283	880,022	— 102,360	— 104,252
3. Other materials	1,798,404	1,865,536	1,567,393	— 318,135	— 231,011
I. Apparel	40,490	42,144	331,706	+ 289,561	+ 291,215
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	796,895	722,676	789,773	+ 66,102	— 8,123
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes and gloves)	964,460	924,715	944,818	+ 20,103	— 39,651
L. Earthenware and glass	385,534	382,009	372,473	— 9,536	— 23,361
M. Paper	301,845	395,796	393,855	+ 3,057	+ 7,012
N. Miscellaneous	1,870,156	2,044,344	2,171,910	+ 127,606	+ 301,754
Total, Class III. ...	£ 16,856,566	17,294,382	17,224,732	— 69,650	+ 368,137
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post) †	252,071	253,076	236,130	— 13,937	— 12,932
Total value of Imports	£ 43,426,769	43,363,705	41,915,106	— 1,438,599	— 511,653

† Not included under following heads.

Comparing the values of the imports of the principal articles last month with those of May, 1902, the chief increases and decreases are as shown in the following statement:—

Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in May, 1903.

Increases.				
		£		
I.	A.	Wheat meal and flour	71,566	
	B.	Cattle	152,873	
	C1.	Cheese	66,674	
		Eggs	71,186	
	C2.	Potatoes... ..	104,453	
		Sugar, refined, and sugar candy... ..	599,862	
	C3.	Sugar, unrefined	155,286	
		Tea	71,159	
	II.	C.	Silver ore	54,277
		D.	Wood and timber, hewn	79,319
Wood and timber, sawn or split...			315,577	
H.		Cotton seed	107,259	
K.		Cocoon oil	60,247	
		Caoutchouc	108,311	
H.		Cotton other than cotton manu- factures	145,288	
		N.	Motor cars in- cluding motor cycles and parts	79,670
Decreases.				
			£	
I.	A.	Wheat	620,492	
	A.	Oats	132,183	
		Maize or Indian corn	141,553	
	B.	Beef, fresh	91,468	
		Bacon	258,706	
	B.	Hams	211,395	
		Meat preserved otherwise than by salting	86,690	
	C1.	Fish, cured or salted	272,633	
		Margarine	64,318	
	C2.	Rum	64,393	
II.	D.	Tobacco, un- manufactured	62,995	
	E.	Raw cotton	289,298	
	F.	Sheep or lambs' wool	140,965	
		Hemp, dressed and undressed	78,101	
	G.	Jute	210,088	
		II.- std.	H.	Flax or linseed	127,095
	H.		Petroleum	264,302
			Tallow and stearine	173,832
	K.		Gutta percha	52,579
			Nitrate of soda manure	143,460
III.	B.	Copper, un- wrought, and part wrought	86,965	
	E.	Machinery other than steam engines	92,475	
	Hs.	Woollen manu- factures	125,507	
	Hs.	Silk manufac- tures... ..	139,076	
	N.	Oil seed cake	67,521	

The following instances of increase in value combined with decrease in quantity, or *vice versa*, may be noted, viz. :—

		Increase.	Decrease.
I.	A.	Farinaceous preparations, un-	
	B.	enumerated	£7,505 ... 22,420 cwts.
	C.	Rabbits, dead	2,372 cwts. £1,165
	D.	Staves of all dimensions ...	318 loads £4,117
II.	H.	Gum arabic	1,676 cwts. £1,825
	K.	Goats' hair, other than mohair ...	4,453 lbs. £4,694
	A.	Nails, screws and rivets ...	11 tons £2,242
	B.	Lead, pig and sheet	£8,516 ... 291 tons.
III.	C.	Clocks	£1,049 ... 2,988 number
	J.	Indigotin dye	480 cwts. £6,455
	K.	Leather	£11,452 ... 6,062 cwts.
	L.	Glass, flint, plain, cut, &c. ...	1,706 cwts. £6,947
	M.	Paper, unprinted	10,950 „ £9,440

III.—EXPORTS.*

The following table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of May, 1903, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901, and the increase or decrease in each principal category :—

* The value of the Exports represents the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in May, 1903.***Exports of British Produce.**

	Month of May.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
L.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour ...	83,932	67,863	139,764	+	71,901
B. Meat, including animals for food	49,854	41,357	54,183	+	12,826
C. Other food and drink ...	880,964	938,159	868,877	—	69,282
D. Tobacco ...	66,801	61,927	56,632	+	4,706
Total, Class I. ...	£ 1,060,641	1,099,306	1,119,456	+	20,150
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke and patent fuel ...	3,000,671	2,326,434	2,092,304	+	275,870
B. Iron ore, scrap iron and steel ...	42,664	33,158	64,942	+	31,784
C. Other metallic ores ...	4,404	9,640	19,755	+	10,115
D. Wood and timber ...	1,214	2,069	4,736	+	2,667
E. Cotton ...	—	—	—	—	—
F. Wool ...	45,328	42,903	77,845	+	34,942
G. Other textile materials ...	11,060	19,026	11,807	—	7,219
H. Oil-seeds, nuts, oils, fats and gums ...	278,955	301,887	302,377	+	490
I. Hides and undressed skins ...	26,866	29,310	84,763	+	55,443
J. Materials for paper making ...	32,021	31,303	36,632	+	5,329
K. Miscellaneous ...	118,689	121,197	140,534	+	19,337
Total, Class II. ...	£ 3,562,072	2,916,837	3,345,675	+	428,838
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof ...	2,181,089	2,518,976	2,863,713	+	344,737
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof ...	656,244	549,525	595,078	+	45,553
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments ...	360,522	384,516	390,402	+	5,886
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus ...	245,333	36,423	100,392	+	63,969
E. Machinery ...	1,637,804	1,854,429	1,650,922	—	203,507
F. Ships (new) ...	481,427	499,161	517,172	+	18,011
G. Manufactures of wood and tim- ber (including furniture) ...	90,534	109,569	116,087	+	5,518
H. Yarns and textile fabrics— 1. Cotton ...	5,839,801	5,767,921	5,934,874	+	176,953
2. Wool ...	1,595,854	1,586,052	1,896,661	+	300,009
3. Other materials ...	939,364	919,542	954,154	+	34,612
I. Apparel ...	491,597	457,386	532,018	+	74,632
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours ...	1,006,156	1,043,187	1,122,300	+	79,113
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes, and gloves) ...	309,370	311,952	399,183	+	87,231
L. Earthenware and glass ...	268,226	324,480	274,715	+	10,566
M. Paper ...	151,514	161,146	163,295	+	12,149
N. Miscellaneous ...	2,061,704	2,012,174	2,008,388	—	3,836
Total, Class III. ...	£ 18,330,639	18,456,718	19,508,204	+	1,051,486
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclas- sified (Including Parcel Post) ...	£ 383,310	359,123	353,691	—	5,432
Total value of Exports of British produce ...	£ 22,326,682	22,331,974	24,327,026	+	1,495,052

Exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce.

Total value ...	£ 6,056,229	5,256,747	5,943,553	+	686,806	—	112,676
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† Not included under following heads.

Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in May, 1903.

Comparing the values of the exports of the principal articles of British produce and manufactures in May, 1903, with those of May, 1902, the chief increases and decreases are as follows:—

Increases.

		£
II.	A. Coal, coke, and patent fuel	275,870
	A. Iron and steel, and manufactures thereof	344,787
	D. Telegraph cables and apparatus*	63,969
III.	H1. Cotton manufactures other than piece-goods	119,443
	H2. Wool combed or carded, and tops	67,985
	I. Worsted yarn	65,000
	I. Apparel and slops	68,780

* Prior to 1903, the value of telegraphic wires was also included, making the increase still more noticeable.

Decreases.

		£
E.	{ Steam engines	68,945
	{ Machinery other than steam engines	134,562
N.	Arms, ammunition and military stores... ..	64,585

The following instances of increase in value combined with decrease in quantity, or *vice versa*, may be noted, viz.:—

		Increase.	Decrease.
	O. Confectionery, jams, and preserved fruits	862 cwts.	£2,063
	B. { Brass, and manufactures of	£2,068	36 tons.
		£7,574	214 "
	H1. { Cotton yarn	£36,785	138,800 lbs.
		£20,775	8,676,100 yds.
III.	H2. Yarn, alpacas and mohair	18,300 lbs.	£2,735
	H3. Linen yarn	£1,412	115,400 lbs.
	I. Hats	£5,882	2,051 dozens.
	J. { Bleaching materials	18,526 cwts.	£4,878
		£1,518	50 tons.
	J. Manure (chemical)... ..	£34,717	2,518 "
IV.	Animals living, other than horses, not for food	£2,608	32 number.

IV.—TRADE FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1903.

The following table shows the value of the Imports from foreign countries and British possessions for the five months ended the 31st May last, as compared with the corresponding periods of the two previous years:—

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in May, 1908.***Imports from Foreign Countries and British Possessions.***

	Five Months ended 31st May.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour ...	25,912,146	26,184,561	24,066,961	- 1,517,900	- 1,245,185
B. Meat, including animals for food	20,789,433	19,769,907	20,197,421	+ 397,514	- 562,014
C. Other food and drink—					
1. Non-dutiable...	22,735,674	23,328,340	23,685,334	+ 347,484	+ 980,150
2. Dutiable ...	21,789,137	19,212,546	16,903,496	- 2,316,048	- 4,955,639
D. Tobacco ...	1,676,404	1,600,117	1,623,102	- 177,015	- 53,302
Total, Class I. ...	£ 92,892,796	90,336,471	86,976,806	- 3,356,663	- 5,915,990
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke and patent fuel ...	6,847	533	1,961	+ 1,428	- 4,866
B. Iron ore, scrap iron and steel ...	1,849,780	2,064,562	2,166,232	+ 21,670	+ 236,452
C. Other metallic ores...	2,885,555	2,475,586	2,452,252	- 23,294	- 66,697
D. Wood and timber ...	6,244,595	5,814,893	6,066,779	+ 251,886	+ 257,016
E. Cotton ...	20,180,171	20,752,118	21,752,478	+ 1,000,360	+ 1,572,307
F. Wool ...	12,969,306	12,869,376	13,210,601	+ 341,225	+ 401,294
G. Other textile materials ...	6,371,697	6,708,730	6,410,601	- 298,129	- 966,686
H. Oil-seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums ...	9,561,133	11,000,201	10,089,977	- 1,539,224	+ 508,844
I. Hides and undressed skins ...	3,217,280	3,025,335	3,189,596	+ 164,261	- 27,684
J. Materials for paper making ...	1,530,718	1,245,394	1,294,220	+ 59,826	- 236,496
K. Miscellaneous ...	7,822,258	8,673,603	8,632,111	- 41,492	+ 806,853
Total Class II. ...	£ 72,179,340	74,463,281	74,307,037	- 156,244	+ 2,127,697
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof† ...	2,864,025	3,248,366	3,352,431	+ 104,065	+ 486,406
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof† ...	8,121,675	8,437,668	7,414,614	- 1,023,054	- 707,061
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments ...	1,767,045	1,816,639	1,892,318	+ 75,679	+ 125,273
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus...			26,618	+ 26,618	- 26,618
E. Machinery ...	1,671,803	2,181,617	1,971,799	- 210,048	+ 299,986
F. Ships (new) ...			15,461	+ 15,461	- 15,461
G. Manufactures of wood and timber (including furniture) ...	936,863	1,007,410	977,501	- 29,909	+ 18,638
H. Yarns and textile fabrics—					
1. Cotton ...	2,064,968	2,499,477	3,411,374	+ 911,897	+ 1,326,406
2. Wool ...	5,115,737	5,365,267	4,994,724	- 370,543	- 121,013
3. Other materials ...	9,738,048	9,329,630	8,790,100	- 539,530	- 947,948
I. Apparel ...	126,676	306,437	1,197,477	+ 991,040	+ 1,068,801
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours ...	4,157,256	4,116,179	3,941,618	- 176,561	- 318,638
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes, and gloves) ...	5,086,368	4,561,253	4,924,464	+ 363,211	- 161,804
L. Earthenware and glass ...	1,738,523	1,903,736	1,886,305	- 17,431	+ 147,777
M. Paper ...	1,833,761	1,875,799	1,996,896	+ 121,097	+ 163,135
N. Miscellaneous ...	9,161,078	9,668,083	10,275,645	+ 607,562	+ 1,114,567
Total, Class III. ...	£ 84,447,731	86,241,801	86,971,315	+ 729,514	+ 2,523,564
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post) ...	1,304,493	1,063,784	1,005,399	- 58,415	- 199,124
Total ...	£ 230,734,260	222,125,237	219,269,637	- 2,574,510	- 1,463,623

* The value of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

† Not included under following heads.

The value of the Exports of home produce and of foreign and colonial produce during the first five months of 1903, as compared with like periods of 1902 and 1901, is as shown in the subjoined table:—

*Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in May, 1903.***Exports of British Produce.***

	Five Months ended 31st May.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—					
A. Grain and flour ...	400,122	363,300	654,855	+	291,575
B. Meat, including animals for food...	200,760	270,513	234,095	—	35,816
C. Other food and drink ...	4,406,410	4,871,030	4,408,324	—	462,766
D. Tobacco ...	263,203	317,543	266,842	—	50,700
Total, Class I. ...	£ 5,270,495	£ 5,822,385	£ 5,564,716	—	257,649
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—					
A. Coal, coke, and patent fuel ...	12,583,145	10,638,135	11,029,970	+	401,835
B. Iron ore, scrap iron, and steel ...	114,542	127,315	195,865	+	69,370
C. Other metallic ores...	23,661	33,658	55,210	+	21,552
D. Wood and timber ...	5,630	9,469	20,009	+	10,540
E. Cotton ...	—	—	—	—	—
F. Wool ...	302,292	270,850	425,390	+	154,431
G. Other textile materials ...	58,041	96,501	70,393	—	26,198
H. Oil-seeds, nuts, oils, fats, and gums ...	1,129,934	1,306,379	1,379,936	+	13,657
I. Hides and undressed skins ...	120,177	140,737	611,323	+	470,586
J. Materials for paper making ...	152,879	153,852	173,654	+	18,803
K. Miscellaneous ...	584,413	670,358	693,401	+	23,243
Total, Class II. ...	£ 14,973,713	£ 13,497,343	£ 14,654,072	+	1,156,829
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—					
A. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof ...	10,244,513	11,023,643	12,958,631	+	1,934,988
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof ...	2,709,282	2,637,390	2,800,322	+	163,062
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments ...	1,731,424	1,771,663	1,843,669	+	72,006
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus ...	1,623,312	840,319	1,362,133	+	521,814
E. Machinery ...	7,441,627	7,480,915	7,980,478	+	179,563
F. Ships (new) ...	4,554,355	2,663,329	1,798,068	—	865,261
G. Manufactures of wood and timber (including furniture) ...	422,180	490,741	625,357	+	134,516
H. Yarns and textile fabrics— 1. Cotton ...	30,631,978	30,592,104	31,240,580	+	448,476
2. Wool ...	9,111,238	9,481,385	10,214,702	+	733,317
3. Other materials ...	4,898,332	4,885,940	5,037,837	+	151,897
I. Apparel ...	2,768,311	2,812,643	3,306,860	+	496,217
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours ...	4,812,504	5,099,310	5,424,599	+	325,289
K. Leather and manufactures thereof (including boots and shoes and gloves) ...	1,640,806	1,652,090	2,106,695	+	456,605
L. Earthenware and glass ...	1,271,500	1,208,850	1,331,338	+	122,488
M. Paper... ..	758,875	674,545	743,164	+	68,619
N. Miscellaneous ...	9,617,883	9,421,541	9,864,324	+	442,783
Total, Class III. ...	£ 94,238,120	£ 93,036,278	£ 98,423,657	+	5,386,379
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassi- fied (including Parcel Post) £	1,653,646	1,767,305	1,609,220	—	158,065
Total value ...	£ 116,135,974	£ 114,133,191	£ 126,360,665	+	6,197,474

Exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce.

	£	£	£	£	£
Total value ...	23,560,356	27,209,714	30,197,016	+	2,967,302

* The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship and are known as the "free on board" values.

† Not included under following heads.

Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom in May, 1903.

V.—SHIPPING IN MAY, 1903.

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended May, 1903, amounted to 3,196,221 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,300,068 tons, as against 3,161,030 tons entered and 3,904,547 tons cleared in the month of May, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during May, 1903, amounted to 2,706,105 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,654,718 tons, as against 2,661,600 tons entered, and 2,618,452 tons cleared in May, 1902.

VI.—FIVE MONTHS' SHIPPING (JANUARY-MAY).

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the five months ended 31st May, 1903, amounted to 14,801,507 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 18,868,734 tons, as against 14,467,052 tons entered and 17,518,835 tons cleared in the similar period of the year 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during the first five months of 1903 amounted to 12,637,558 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 12,485,372 tons, as against 12,770,307 tons entered and 12,578,736 tons cleared in the first five months of the year 1902.

TRADE OF MANCHURIA IN 1902.

In a recent report on the trade of Manchuria in 1902, the United States Consul at Niuchwang states that there are few places that show a more general growth of trade during the past ten years than Manchuria. The increase in foreign imports for that period has ranged from 100 to 500 per cent., reaching the greatest volume during the year just past, when the total export and import trade of Niuchwang was 60,595,367 haikwan taels (about 8,000,000*l.*). The volume of trade has practically doubled in five years. The Customs revenue for the year 1902 was 1,425,096 haikwan taels (182,000*l.*).

The Consul says:—"During the last year, large quantities of foreign goods were imported free of duty at Port Arthur and Dalny and were carried into the interior by railway as far as Harbin. This leaves a large amount of business unaccounted for by the Customs returns, which for the coming year will give even less reliable data of imports and exports in Manchuria, as still larger quantities of goods are already coming in and going out at these two free ports. One shipment of 5,000 bales of cotton goods and large amounts of yarn have arrived at Niuchwang by rail from Dalny, and 2,500 bales of silk and large quantities of grain were exported during the first 60 days of 1903.

Trade of Manchuria in 1902.

"Growth of Trade.—The great growth of trade in Manchuria has resulted from the free exportation of beans, bean cake, and bean oil. The Chinese still restrict the export of grain. Manchuria is primarily a grain-producing country, having the soil, climate, animals, and the general conditions of farm life necessary for that purpose. Large tracts of productive land that are as yet uncultivated will grow grain in abundance, and railway transportation is now at hand to carry the produce to market. If free exportation of all the products is provided for, the development of trade will for many years to come be as great as in the last decade. If, in addition to this, Manchuria had no import duties and its mines were developed, the province would show a growth of prosperity such as would astonish the rest of the world. . . .

"Cotton-goods trade.—The following returns show the extent and value of the cotton-goods trade of Manchuria, its growth, and the possibilities of its further development :—

Cotton Goods imported into Niuchwang in 1902.

Description.						Quantity.	Increase in 10 years.
Sheetings—							Per cent.
Gray ...	...	...	...	...	pieces	146,169	300
White, plain...	...	...	...	...	"	100,610	400
Figured ...	...	...	...	...	"	100	—
English ...	...	...	...	...	"	18,281	—
American ...	...	...	...	...	"	1,090,152	400
Dyed—							
Plain ...	...	...	...	...	"	1,850	—
Figured ...	...	...	...	...	"	1,524	—
T cloths ...	...	...	...	...	"	20,962	—
American drills ...	...	...	...	...	"	245,505	250
Chintzes ...	...	...	...	...	"	663	—
Turkey-red cambrics	...	...	...	...	"	7,073	—
Velvets, &c. ...	...	...	...	...	"	7,315	—
Handkerchiefs ...	...	...	...	...	dozens	78,861	—
Towels ...	...	...	...	...	"	121,780	—
Unclassed cotton goods	...	...	...	...	pieces	278,068	500
Cotton yarn—							
Indian ...	...	...	...	...	"	210,075	50

				\$
Total value of the above	...	...	...	1,680,000
Foreign goods in junks	...	...	...	1,000
Native cotton goods in junks	...	...	...	1,060,000

Total imports for 1902 ... £2,741,000

"The trade in cotton goods for the last year shows a remarkably strong and healthy condition, the total being greater than ever before. For this year, the importations are not expected to equal those of last year, on account of the great depression in silver."

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

BRITISH INDIA.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of a Customs Circular (No. 7 of 1903), issued by the Finance and Commerce Department of the Government of India on 2nd May, 1903, relating to the duty payable on box backs and swells, and rough bobbin ends, imported into British India for use in jute mills.

Customs Decisions.

The Government of India are of opinion that box backs and swells, when unshaped, are liable to Customs duty; but that, when shaped, they may be correctly described as component parts of the power looms and be admitted free of duty.

The same principle is laid down as applying to rough bobbin ends. It would appear that, in their unshaped form, they are merely blocks of beech wood of a certain size, and have no special character warranting a presumption that they will be used for a particular purpose only. They are, in the opinion of the Government of India, liable to duty.

A copy of a further Customs Circular (No. 8 of 1903), issued by the Government of India, has been received, notifying that the provisions of Section 50 (a) of the Sea Customs Act, No. 8 of 1878 will, in future, be waived in favour of articles exported with the owners as personal baggage.

Drawback of Duty on Articles Exported as Personal Baggage.

The section referred to provides that no drawback will be allowed upon goods not included in the export manifest.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Canada Gazette" for 30th May, 1903, containing an Order in Council, dated 16th May, 1903, altering the regulations and provisions contained in the Orders in Council of 2nd July, 1868, and 4th November, 1874, in regard to the Customs

Duties on Goods for the Imperial Army in Canada, and the refund and remission of such duties, as follows:—

(1). Remission of Customs duty on the following goods for the use of H.M. Army is hereby authorised, viz.:—

(a) On plain clothing for officers, including clothing for officers' wives.

(b) On articles of table furniture (chinaware, glassware, plated ware, silverware, and table linen), in use by and the property of a Regimental mess, a General Staff, or Departmental Officer, brought

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

DOMINION OF CANADA—continued.

into Canada by a corps or individuals on their first arrival in the Dominion.

(c) On imported cigars, wines, spirits, malt liquors, coffee, tea, sugar for Officers' messes and General Officers; also on tea, coffee, and sugar for canteens.

Provided that special certificates, to the effect that the articles will not be retailed, &c., are written and subscribed to on the entries of forms for refund or remission of duties.

In lieu of the remission of duties on articles imported for the use of H.M. Army, an allowance (out of money voted by Parliament) will be payable to each staff and departmental officer and warrant officer, who is not a regular member of any officers' mess, at the rate of 62.50 dols. a year to be paid at the end of each quarterly period, provided the pay sheets for the said allowance in respect of each officer are certified by the officer in command, to the effect that no wines, spirits, cigars, malt liquors, tea, coffee, or sugar, have been bought by the above-mentioned officers from any officers' mess or canteen during the past quarter.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of a Memorandum (No. 1228 B) issued by the Canadian Commissioner of Customs on the 15th May, 1903, relating to the Customs regulations to be observed regarding tourists' automobiles.

**Tourists'
Automobiles.**

The following is the text of the Memorandum:—

Automobiles, not new, in use by tourists coming temporarily into Canada and not domiciled in Canada may be delivered upon deposit of an amount equal to duty, subject to refund upon exportation within the time prescribed by the collector, not exceeding six months from the date of arrival, under the same form and conditions as prescribed for tourists' outfits under Memorandum 978 B and Form E 29.

The automobile may not be used for gain or hire in Canada, and an invoice showing the selling price thereof should be produced to the Collector of Customs in order to enable him to determine the amount of deposit required.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A draft of the Customs Union Convention, agreed to by representatives of the British Colonies and territories in South Africa, at a conference held at Bloemfontein in March, 1903, has just been issued as a Parliamentary Paper (Cd. 1,599).

**Draft of
Proposed S. A.
Customs Union
Tariff.**

The Convention lays down rates of duty to be imposed upon goods imported into the South African

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

Colonies, and it at the same time provides for a rebate of certain customs duties upon goods and articles, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, imported therefrom for consumption within the Union.

A copy of the Convention may be seen by persons interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), or may be purchased, price 2d., either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, E.C.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "New Zealand Gazette" for 9th April last, containing an Order (No. 712) issued by the Commissioner of Trade and Customs under the above date, and giving Customs Decisions in relation to the undermentioned articles imported into New Zealand, as follows:—

Articles, and how classed.	Rate of Duty.
Beer, solid, extract, Cave's, London— Under Section 7 of "The Customs Duties Consolidation Act, 1882"	8s. per gall.
Belt, metal, waist— As apparel	25 % <i>ad val.</i>
Carbide of calcium— As "not otherwise enumerated"	Free.
Collars, solid nickel, for making up umbrellas— As minor articles	Free.
Coupling boxes for connecting iron rods, claimed as nuts— As hardware	20 % <i>ad val.</i>
Egg yolk liquid— As provisions "not otherwise enumerated"	20 % "
Gum boots (item 500 in Tariff)— This exemption is to apply only to boots with uppers and soles made entirely of india-rubber... ..	
Machine for coal breaking, imported for gasworks— As apparatus for producing gas	10 % "
Petal paint for producing a series of coloured effects for decorating programmes, &c.— As fancy goods	20 % "

The same copy of the "Gazette" contains an Order-in-Council, dated 2nd April, 1903, which provides under the "Customs and Excise Duties Act, 1888," for the allowance of a drawback of the excise duty paid on New Zealand brewed beer in bottle, when exported from the Colony as ship's stores, shipped wholly for ship's use outside the Colony.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

RUSSIA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that paragraphs 13 to 20, 199, 291, and 296 of the Russian Customs Regulations* of the 15th/28th May, 1901, containing certain provisions respecting the invoices and specifications to be presented for the purpose of the Customs inspection of imported goods, have not as yet been brought into operation at any of the Custom-houses of the Empire. These paragraphs will be brought into operation during the coming navigation season at some of the principal Russian ports, after due notice by the Department of Customs.

* NOTE.—A translation of these Regulations was published in the "Miscellaneous Series" of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, No. 569 (October, 1901). Copies may be obtained through Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode's Office for the Sale of Parliamentary Papers in East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., at a price of 2½d. each.

GERMANY—LUXEMBURG.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a Memorandum by H.M. Commercial Attaché at Berlin on the subject of a Convention between Germany and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, renewing the lease of the Wilhelm-Luxemburg Railway to the Alsace-Lorraine Imperial Lines, and continuing in force the Customs Union between the contracting parties.

From this Memorandum it appears that the Department of Imperial Railways in Alsace-Lorraine has, under an Agreement made with the Wilhelm-Luxemburg Railway, renewed the lease of the older lines of the last mentioned railway and the connecting lines in the Dûdelinger and Rumelinger Valleys (the lines from Ultingen to the Prussian frontier and from Esch to Deutsch-Oth and Redingen not being included) from 1st January, 1903, until the expiration of the concession to the Wilhelm-Luxemburg Company, namely, to 1959. The lines will then fall into possession of the States which originally granted the concessions. The legal position of the railways of the company lying within Belgium will not be affected by the Agreement.

The Luxemburg lines can at no time be employed for forwarding troops, arms, war material, and ammunition; and they cannot be used for forwarding provisions should Germany be at war.

The Convention between Germany and Luxemburg, embodying the Railway Agreement, was concluded on the 11th November, 1902, and ratified at Berlin on 14th April last. An important clause of the Convention, provides that the Customs Union

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

between Luxemburg and the German Empire, which has now existed for over 60 years, is to remain unaltered so long as the Agreement with regard to the railways remains in force—i.e., until 1959.

FRANCE.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a circular recently issued by the French Customs Department, respecting the introduction into France of metal kitchen utensils of a standard inferior to that required from French manufacturers of such articles. The circular recites the terms of Ministerial Circulars of 1890 and 1896, notifying the prohibition of the manufacture, or the offering for sale in France, of metal vessels or utensils intended to contain or to come into contact with alimentary substances, and in the composition of which there is present more than 10 per cent. of lead or more than one ten-thousandth part of arsenic. Customs Officers are instructed to enforce this prohibition at the frontiers.

PORTUGAL—LOURENÇO MARQUES.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a Decree which has been issued by the Acting Governor of Lourenço Marques as a result of an outbreak of "red-water" in that district. The Decree provides that the importation of cattle coming from Zanzibar, British Protectorate ports, and the German Colony in East Africa, is only to be allowed at Lourenço Marques after the importer or consignee has obtained permission from the Government, and certain stipulations are laid down with regard to the treatment after landing of cattle allowed to be imported.

The passage of cattle across the Transvaal border in any direction whatever is expressly forbidden, with the exception of cattle going by rail and not falling under any other restriction in force. The passage of cattle across the Zululand frontier remains subject to existing regulations.

SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" for the 19th May contains a Royal Order, dated 25th April, according to which drums of sheet iron, galvanised or not, in which aniline oil is imported, are, for the purpose of the assessment of import duty, to be included in the weight of the merchandise, provided that the weight of the empty drums, after deduction of the weight of any exterior protective packing, does not exceed

**Introduction of
Vessels of Metal
Containing Lead
or Arsenic.**

**Restrictions on
Importation, &c.,
of Cattle.**

**Import Duty
on Drums
containing
Aniline Oil.**

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SPAIN—continued.

10 kilogs., and that the sheet iron of which they are composed does not exceed 1 mm. in thickness.

Casks and drums of sheet iron weighing more than 10 kilogs., and composed of metal exceeding 1 mm. in thickness, are to pay duty under No. 58 of the Customs Tariff, at the rate of 17 pesetas per 100 kilogs. (6s. 11d. per cwt.).

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 1st June contains a Royal Order declaring 36·21 per cent. to have been the average rate of exchange (premium of exchange on Paris) during the last fortnight of May, and that the corresponding reduction in the rate of Customs duty payable in gold during the first fortnight of this month will be 27 percent.

**Rate of Exchange
for
Adjustment of
Customs Duties
payable in Gold.**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a recent Act of the United States Congress (the Agricultural Appropriation Act for 1903-4), some sections of which confer upon the Secretary of the Treasury, in co-operation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the power to prohibit the importation into the United States of deleterious or falsely labelled consignments of foods, liquors, and drugs.

When the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe that articles are being imported which, owing to adulteration, are dangerous to public health, or which are forbidden to be sold or are restricted in sale in the countries in which they are made or from which they are exported, or which are falsely labelled in any respect, he is empowered to demand samples for the purpose of analysis, and, in the event of it being proved by the analysis that adulteration exists, the Secretary of the Treasury may, at the instance of the Secretary of Agriculture, refuse to allow the delivery of the goods to the consignee.

The Secretary of Agriculture is also authorised to establish standards of purity for all kinds of food products and beverages.

The Act, copy of which may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., is to come into force on 1st July.

The following is a list of some Decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington for the information of United States Customs Officers and others:—

**Customs
Decisions.**

Anthracite coal.—Anthracite coal testing less than 92 per cent. fixed carbon is properly dutiable at the rate of 67 cents per ton under the provisions of paragraph 415 of the Tariff.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—continued.

Animals for exhibition.—The bond given on the importation of animals for exhibition purposes under the provisions of paragraph 474 of the Tariff, should be in the sum of double the estimated duties on the animals.

Cloth-lined paper.—Cloth-lined paper, a species of paper chiefly used in making envelopes, and known commercially as paper, although in chief value of cotton, is dutiable under paragraph 402 of the Tariff, which provides for all other paper not specially tariffed.

Precipitated chalk, dried and bolted, and intended for toilet purposes and not yet made into toilet articles, is dutiable at the rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem* under the last clause of paragraph 13 of the Tariff as manufactures of chalk not otherwise provided for.

Octopus gloy, a preparation for use in filling woollen and cotton fabrics, is not dutiable as a preparation fit for use as starch, but is dutiable as a chemical compound under paragraph 3 of the Tariff at the rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Drawn work.—Articles commonly known as “drawn work” are not susceptible of count of warp and filling threads within the purview of paragraph 346 of the Tariff, and are consequently not dutiable under that paragraph.

Bamboo sticks, coloured.—Bamboo sticks stained or dyed are entitled to free entry under paragraph 700 of the Tariff, as bamboo unmanufactured. To take bamboo out of the provisions of paragraph 700, it is necessary that it should be made into an article having a new name, character, and use, and that its character as bamboo should be destroyed.

Nutgall extract.—Extract of nutgalls, being the product obtained by digesting powdered nutgalls in water and filtering, and adding thereto a chemical to prevent moulding, the addition of the chemical forming a mechanical and not a chemical mixture, is not dutiable as a chemical compound. Such extract is commercially known as tannic acid and is dutiable as such at the rate of 50 cents per pound under paragraph 1 of the Tariff.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the Argentine Minister of Finance has issued a Decree declaring that, from the 1st June, 1903, all merchandise which, not being samples, parcels, or luggage, is imported as such, will be subject to penalties in accordance with Article 1,025 of the Regulations.

**Importation of
Merchandise as
Samples, Parcels,
or Luggage.**

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

CAPE COLONY.

With reference to the notice on p. 267 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 7th May, it may be noted that the "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 15th May, contains an announcement to the effect that in connection with the reduction of through rates from the Ports to the Orange River Colony and Transvaal, certain articles of grocery and building material will be conveyed in local traffic over the Cape Government Railways (new branch lines excepted), at reduced rates on and after the 1st June, 1903.

The "Gazette," containing the list of articles and the reductions in the rates may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

GERMANY—LUXEMBURG.

On p. 504 will be found a reference to a memorandum drawn up by H.M. Commercial Attaché at Berlin, respecting a Convention between Germany and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, renewing the lease of the Wilhelm-Luxemburg Railway to the Alsace-Lorraine Imperial lines.

TURKEY.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople, transmitting a report by Lieut-Col. F. R. Maunsell, Military Attaché to the Embassy, on the port of Haidar Pasha, which was opened for traffic in April last.

Haidar Pasha, at Scutari, opposite Constantinople, is the terminal port of the Anatolian Railway. The actual port, now completed at a cost of 150,000*l.*, although probably sufficient for any present traffic, is neither very extensive nor commodious.

There are two main wharves at right angles to each other, the main one 365 yards long and capable of accommodating two ordinary cargo steamers alongside, and another arm of 180 yards to unload one steamer or a number of small barges ("mahunas.")

The equipment of the port includes a grain elevator capable of dealing with 2,400 tons in 24 hours, with storage room for 5,000 tons; cranes, electric lighting, &c.

Lieut.-Col. Maunsell states that the mean depth of water in the harbour is now 8 metres (29½ feet) throughout.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

RHODESIA.

Information has been received from the British South Africa Company to the effect that specimens of different calcareous rocks in the Bubi district of Southern Rhodesia, have been forwarded to Bulawayo, for experimental purposes, with a view to producing cement. One specimen was experimented upon in 1895, and the result was declared equal to Portland cement. As, however, the rebellion broke out shortly after, no further steps were taken in the matter. If this opinion is confirmed, a profitable industry, it is stated, should result in the near future.

TURKEY.

A report just issued by the Foreign Office (*Miscellaneous Series, No. 589*) contains detailed accounts of the mining enterprises existing in the several provinces of the Turkish Empire and a table of mining concessions arranged by localities, in alphabetical order, showing whether these are "working," "not working," "cancelled," &c.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 6th June were as follow:—

Wheat	...	...	...	...	27s. 6d.
Barley	...	...	...	...	23s. 10d.
Oats	...	...	...	...	18s. 4d.

For further particulars see p. 514.

Statements are published on pp. 515-16, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the weeks ended the 30th May and 6th June, 1903, as well as of the imports during the corresponding weeks of 1902.

RHODESIA.

Information has been received from the British South Africa Company to the effect that a splendid crop of tobacco has been reaped in the Makoni district (Mashonaland) of Southern Rhodesia. The tobacco is now being prepared for the Salisbury market. This crop is stated to be one of the finest ever grown in Rhodesia.

*Agriculture.***RHODESIA—continued.**

The British South Africa Company are also in receipt of a report relative to a sample of cotton grown in Senga, North Eastern Rhodesia. The cotton is stated by Liverpool experts to be of a very high class and should have a ready sale at 6½d. a lb. A firm of merchants at Bradford fully endorse this opinion.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at Berlin, to the effect that according to a communication from the German Colonial Economic Committee, the South West African Protectorate is likely to become the most important German possession as far as cotton cultivation is concerned. The Inspector of the Okahandja District has sent to the Committee samples of cotton wool that the textile industry class as being as valuable as the American Sea Island, that is to say the finest sort, and worth 1 mark 70 pfennigs (about 1s. 8d.) the kilogramme. The staple is wonderfully long and fine, and should become the most valuable cotton ever cultivated. Most of the land in this district belongs to natives, but there are also some parts in the hands of settlers.

Okahandja lies about 3,430 feet above the level of the sea, and is close to the Swakopmund-Windhoek Railway, being 190 miles from the former place.

TURKEY.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople, enclosing a memorandum respecting the prospects of the harvests in Asia Minor, which states that the apprehensions which have recently been entertained with regard to the probable failure of the coming harvest in many districts of Asia Minor would seem to be but too well founded.

**Harvest
Prospects in
Asia Minor.**

Persons who have recently travelled through the Angora and Konia districts report that the crops in the Angora district are very bad, especially in the neighbourhood of Angora. Towards Eskishehr they are a little better, but badly in want of rain.

In the Vilayet of Konia the crops on the lower lying lands are fairly flourishing, but on the plateau, unless rain falls plentifully, there will be a complete failure of all corn crops.

In the valleys of Aidin and along the Cassaba railway, so far, all is well, but the harvest is not yet assured even there.

In the Burdur district the people were in despair, and prayers for rain were being offered.

Agriculture.

BOSNIA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a memorandum from H.M. Consul-General at Sarajevo, as follows:—"Although sharp frosts in the month of April did much damage to the vines, and to the walnut and fig trees in the Herzegovina, the plum trees in Bosnia, which were not fully in blossom at the time, do not appear to have suffered, and a fair average plum crop is anticipated."

MISCELLANEOUS.**UNITED KINGDOM.**

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 4th June was
Cotton Statistics. 26,176 and the number imported during the 23 weeks ended the 4th June was 2,057,937. As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 4th June, 11,259 bales, and for the 23 weeks, 217,868.

For further details see p. 514.

A return showing the number of bales of cotton imported and exported, forwarded from ports to Inland towns, and returned to ports during the month and five months ended 31st May last, will be found on p. 513.

The number of emigrants that left the United Kingdom during the month of May, 1903, was 54,288, as compared with 40,665 during the corresponding month of 1902. During the five months ended May, 1903, 186,308 emigrants left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe as compared with 141,136 during the same period of 1902.

For further details see p. 517.

The number of aliens arriving at ports in the United Kingdom during May, 1903, was 27,574 and during the five months ended May, 95,815. Detailed statistics of alien immigration will be found on p. 518.

The total number of receiving orders gazetted in England and Wales during the month of May last was
Bankruptcy Statistics. 870; as compared with 369 during May, 1902.

For detailed particulars see pp. 519-20.

Miscellaneous.

CEYLON.

The "Ceylon Observer" (Colombo) of the 23rd April, reports that the total yield of the season's pearl fishery, which lasted 36 days, was Rs. 815,569 or about 54,871*l.*, namely 1,527*l.* per diem, as against 1,273*l.* (roughly) in 1881, 1,914*l.* in 1888, and 2,241*l.* in 1891. It is stated that only on five previous occasions—out of a total of 41 pearl fisheries in the British era—have the gross receipts been in excess of those accruing for the present year.

The last day's yield was taken over by the Government agent for experimental purposes. It is proposed to have another fishery next year.

Commenting on the Colonial Secretary's announcement of the sale of the right to collect oyster shells at Marichchikaddai, the "Ceylon Observer" remarks that past shipments of Ceylon oyster shells have not competed successfully with shells from the Australian coast, but with the new uses for the shells and the new means for utilising even the thinnest coating of mother-o'-pearl which have come to light subsequently, a shipment of shells from the 1903 fishery might meet with a better reception in Europe and a greatly improved sale.

TURKEY.

H.M. Consul at Bussorah states in his report that almost all the liquorice root exported in 1902 consisted of that dug and pressed in the previous year, and retained until the abnormally low freights of 1902 afforded an opportunity of shipping it without loss. Early in 1903 hardly any business was being done in this article. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,987.*)

REPORT OF BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Halifax.—The monthly meeting of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce was held on the 27th May. Mr. C. Holdsworth, J.P., President, who had just returned from South Africa, occupied the chair. He thought there was a business prospect for everyone in South Africa, but they must remember that the proportion of white people there was only small, consequently they could not expect to get that big market all in a minute.

It was reported that only seven local manufacturers had returned any reply to the circular respecting the St. Louis Exhibition; of these six declined to exhibit, and the other firm stated that they were considering the matter.

The Chamber adopted a resolution approving of a general treaty of arbitration between England and France.

Other matters dealt with were: Monthly Stone Trade Reports; Compulsory Arbitration in Trade Disputes, and the Montreal Conference.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.—May, 1903.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, and Returned to Ports during the Month and Five Months ended 31st May, 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1902.

	MONTH OF MAY.		FIVE MONTHS ENDED 31ST MAY, 1903.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
IMPORTS.				
American	109,788	156,672	1,420,435	1,498,950
Brasilian	16,890	17,574	107,198	131,065
East Indian	36,996	5,198	74,420	16,044
Egyptian	12,536	23,269	210,886	240,957
Miscellaneous	4,864	3,508	21,240	21,801
Total	180,569	211,221	1,834,179	1,908,817
EXPORTS.				
American	20,384	24,137	95,956	93,649
Brasilian	5,138	5,350	19,606	6,190
East Indian	4,426	1,973	15,537	6,798
Egyptian	5,583	7,397	61,406	58,925
Miscellaneous	619	863	4,237	2,824
Total	34,100	39,720	196,742	173,386
FORWARDED from PORTS to INLAND TOWNS.				
American	215,186	201,101	1,281,061	1,173,501
Brasilian	13,715	16,750	63,042	63,416
East Indian	8,653	1,552	24,998	6,221
Egyptian	17,005	22,065	133,855	155,391
Miscellaneous	6,940	7,897	23,163	36,196
Total	261,499	248,865	1,536,119	1,434,725
FORWARDED from INLAND TOWNS to PORTS.				
American	981	108	2,729	1,870
Brasilian	—	—	—	—
East Indian	—	—	—	—
Egyptian	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	24	41	76	48
Total	955	149	2,805	1,418

Cotton Returns—continued.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 23 Weeks ended 4th June, 1903.

	Week ended 4th June, 1903.	23 Weeks ended 4th June, 1903.	Week ended 4th June, 1903.	23 Weeks ended 4th June, 1903.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	5,848	1,602,794	6,374	108,851
Brasilian	5,785	112,983	1,569	21,375
East Indian	9,609	84,556	1,639	18,375
Egyptian	4,022	234,368	1,384	64,780
Miscellaneous	912	23,236	293	4,497
Total	26,176	2,057,937	11,259	217,868

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 6th June, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

		Average Price.					
		Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
Week ended 6th June, 1903		s. 27	d. 6	s. 23	d. 10	s. 18	d. 4
Corresponding week in—							
1896		25	1	19	3	14	9
1897		27	4	22	8	17	11
1898		45	4	25	8	20	11
1899		25	6	21	10	18	2
1900		25	3	23	8	18	8
1901		27	6	22	9	20	1
1902		31	3	24	3	22	11

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 30th May, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 30th May, 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	12,660	8,982
Sheep and lambs	"	5,139	2,016
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	646	820
Fresh meat :—			
Beef... ..	Cwts.	96,242	80,075
Mutton	"	105,948	72,097
Pork	"	6,245	8,074
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	73,915	97,057
Beef	"	2,741	1,410
Hams	"	17,142	36,506
Pork	"	7,412	4,777
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	12,610	15,750
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	14,469	14,238
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	81,652	74,118
Margarine	"	18,706	19,786
Cheese	"	51,087	33,286
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	8	6
" cream	"	240	112
" condensed	"	12,447	19,648
" preserved, other kinds	"	816	110
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	524,819	428,943
Poultry and game	Value £	26,584	4,981
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	3,469	1,054
Lard	"	81,912	31,495
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,768,259	2,143,227
Wheat-meal and flour	"	353,171	355,214
Barley	"	175,646	320,176
Oats	"	260,998	324,615
Peas	"	43,416	30,801
Beans	"	11,457	23,147
Maize or Indian corn	"	776,271	987,254
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	20,276	17,628
Apricots and peaches	"	184	587
Bananas	Bunches.	54,409	88,498
Cherries	Cwts.	8,348	8,623
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	180	75
Grapes	"	228	197
Lemons	"	21,997	14,993
Oranges	"	148,469	200,021
Pears	"	254	50
Plums	"	—	—
Strawberries	"	1,764	2,287
Unenumerated	"	1,494	747
Hay	Tons.	4,214	11,687
Straw	"	694	1,851
Hops	Cwts.	1,409	858
Locust beans... ..	"	37,760	5,688
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	236,198	46,721
Potatoes	Cwts.	208,719	189,705
Tomatoes	"	15,279	14,187
Unenumerated	Value £	10,090	13,047
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	115	1,276
Preserved by canning	"	2,171	896

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom—(cont.).
Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 6th June, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 6th June, 1903.	Correspond- ing week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number	12,838	8,208
Sheep and lambs	"	5,669	8,697
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	518	602
Fresh meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	89,258	107,445
Mutton	"	107,459	110,428
Pork	"	5,112	6,174
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	84,811	85,205
Beef... ..	"	3,238	2,507
Hams	"	21,060	25,520
Pork	"	3,693	5,269
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	11,994	12,243
Meat, preserved, otherwise than by salting	"	25,982	26,611
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	60,192	75,037
Margarine	"	12,710	18,387
Cheese	"	51,682	33,989
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	8	—
" cream	"	197	107
" condensed	"	16,855	18,196
" preserved, other kinds	"	—	41
Eggs	Grt. Hunder.	329,080	508,997
Poultry and game	Value £	6,056	10,141
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	5,955	7,519
Lard	"	86,646	85,087
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,742,720	2,765,372
Wheat-meal and flour	"	386,221	422,796
Barley	"	177,124	382,371
Oats... ..	"	383,561	448,975
Peas	"	47,516	82,454
Beans	"	9,721	35,125
Maize or Indian corn	"	583,206	874,354
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	20,003	17,874
Apricots and peaches	"	140	480
Bananas	Bunches	36,279	42,921
Cherries	Cwts.	9,887	9,761
Currants	"	2	—
Gooseberries	"	518	83
Grapes	"	184	281
Lemons	"	23,567	12,509
Oranges	"	90,446	154,345
Pears	"	28	6
Plums	"	—	8
Strawberries	"	4,340	3,895
Unenumerated	"	2,356	1,930
Hay	Tons	3,257	9,092
Straw	"	2,818	1,925
Hops	Cwts.	534	521
Locust beans... ..	"	—	29,325
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels	92,986	15,497
Potatoes	Cwts.	244,622	297,014
Tomatoes	"	12,968	37,332
Unenumerated	Value £	9,682	12,308
Vegetables, dried			
Preserved by canning	Cwts.	1,348	2,759
	"	1,521	8,272

Emigration.—May, 1903.

Return of the Numbers, Nationalities, and *Destinations of the Passengers that left the United Kingdom for Places out of Europe during the Month ended 31st May, 1903, and the Five Months ended 31st May, 1903, compared with the corresponding periods of the previous Year.

Nationality.	BRITISH EMPIRE.						FOREIGN COUNTRIES.			Grand Total.	
	British North America.	Australia and New Zealand.	British South Africa.	India, including Ceylon.	Other British Colonies and Possessions.	Total.	United States.	Other Foreign Countries.	Total.		
	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1903.	1902.
Month ended 31st May.											
English	6,479	509	3,402	175	187	10,752	6,128	301	6,429	17,181	10,994
Scotch	1,987	90	763	7	26	2,873	1,255	30	1,285	4,158	2,904
Irish	444	69	126	2	2	643	7,316	12	7,328	7,971	5,812
Total of British origin ...	8,910	668	4,291	184	215	14,268	14,699	343	15,042	29,310	19,710
Foreigners	5,680	17	1,053	5	21	6,776	17,637	88	17,725	24,501	20,601
Nationalities not distinguished	36	2	...	84	232	354	32	91	123	477	354
Total	14,626	687	5,344	273	468	21,398	32,368	522	32,890	54,288	40,665
Total for corresponding month, 1902	9,625	775	3,478	239	405	14,522	25,647	496	26,143	40,665	
Five Months ended 31st May.											
English	24,169	3,120	16,310	1,306	1,409	46,314	21,345	1,844	23,189	69,503	44,045
Scotch	5,169	543	2,696	63	182	8,653	4,758	232	4,990	13,643	8,605
Irish	1,215	266	566	14	28	2,089	18,493	64	18,557	20,646	17,963
Total of British origin ...	30,553	3,929	19,572	1,383	1,619	57,066	44,596	2,140	46,736	103,792	70,613
Foreigners	18,928	80	4,583	24	103	23,718	54,784	495	55,279	78,997	68,506
Nationalities not distinguished	56	2	...	464	1,010	1,532	1,130	857	1,987	3,519	2,017
Total	49,537	4,011	24,155	1,871	2,732	82,306	100,510	3,492	104,002	186,308	141,136
Total for corresponding months, 1902	27,444	4,764	13,253	1,518	2,707	48,686	88,129	3,321	91,450	141,136	

* The destinations given are, in all cases, based on the ports at which the passengers contracted to land.

NOTE.—The above figures being made up at the earliest possible date after the close of each month, are subject to correction in the Annual Returns.

Alien Immigration—May.

Statement showing the Number of Aliens that Arrived from the Continent at Ports† in the United Kingdom during the Month and Five Months ended 31st May, 1903, compared with the corresponding periods of the previous Year.

(Compiled from the Alien Lists received by the Customs under Act 6 Will. 4, c. 11, sec. 2.)

	Hamburg, Bremen, and Bremerhaven.		Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and Antwerp.		Gothenburg, Christiania, Arendal, and Christiansand.		Libau.		Dieppe.		Other Continental Ports.		Total.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Month ended 31st May.														
Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as <i>en route</i> to places out of the United Kingdom :*														
Arrived at London ...	1,528	1,333	876	759	164	141	543	304	...	...	230	221	3,336	2,300
Grimsby ...	494	686	75	30	12	28	...	...	...	...	16	44	567	76
Hull... ..	205	76	40	38	105	86	13	2	...	...	96	151	450	28
Tyne Ports... ..	38	67	71	58	183	211	...	...	...	...	521	306	813	28
Leith... ..	53	69	73	60	...	2	...	...	...	...	54	62	136	28
Newhaven... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,814	1,766	...	...	1,814	1,766
Other ports	70	89	51	41	61	62	5	...	...	...	771	676	958	96
Total	2,388	2,340	1,186	1,006	525	520	561	306	1,814	1,766	1,697	1,460	8,171	2,300
Aliens described in the Alien Lists as <i>en route</i> to places out of the United Kingdom :														
Arrived at Grimsby ...	834	68	1,777	1,804	1,259	1,427	...	...	...	...	639	596	4,509	1,900
Harwich ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,142	1,372	1,142	1,372
Hull... ..	114	230	736	543	6,352	3,323	582	663	...	...	4,077	4,471	11,711	9,228
Other ports	...	1	496	399	148	60	...	...	...	...	1,897	943	2,941	1,280
Total	948	299	3,009	2,746	7,659	4,810	532	663	...	...	7,255	7,282	19,403	11,500
Total of Aliens arrived ...	3,336	2,639	4,195	3,752	8,184	5,330	1,093	969	1,814	1,766	8,952	8,742	27,574	23,800
Five Months ended 31st May.														
Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as <i>en route</i> to places out of the United Kingdom :*														
Total No.... ..	9,139	7,878	4,580	3,825	2,261	2,568	2,041	1,418	6,797	6,740	7,069	5,917	33,167	12,508
Aliens described in the Alien Lists as <i>en route</i> to places out of the United Kingdom :														
Total No.... ..	2,330	881	10,312	9,121	22,011	16,240	2,478	2,217	...	...	26,797	26,020	63,928	54,571
Total of Aliens arrived ...	11,469	8,759	14,892	12,946	24,272	18,808	4,519	3,635	6,797	6,740	33,866	31,937	97,095	67,079

* The distinction made in this Return between "Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as *en route* to places out of the United Kingdom," and "Aliens described in the Alien Lists as *en route*, &c.," is due to the fact that a large number of Aliens who arrive from Continental ports are reported to be on the way to places out of the United Kingdom, and it is considered desirable to record the fact. But it is not thereby implied that the "Aliens not described in the Alien Lists as *en route*, &c.," come to this country for settlement, there being in fact a large emigration of foreigners from this country, while many of the Aliens arriving from Continental ports return to the Continent. (See Annual Report on Emigration and Immigration, No. 183, Sess. 1902, and Monthly Emigration Returns.)

† The ports from which Alien Lists are received are Aberdeen, Belfast, Blyth, Bristol, Cardiff, Dover, Dublin, Folkestone, Glasgow, Goole, Grangemouth, Granton, Greenock, Grimsby, Harwich, Hull, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Liverpool, London, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Newhaven, Newport, North Shields, South Shields, Southampton, Sunderland, and West Hartlepool. The Lists received from Dover, Folkestone, Harwich, Newhaven, and Southampton show only deck passengers and persons who, after landing, proceed by train as third class passengers.

‡ The number of sailors included with the Aliens who arrived at ports in the United Kingdom not *en route* to places out of the United Kingdom in the month of May, 1903, was 1,306, and 1,516 in the same month of 1902; in the five months ended May, 1903, the number was 5,932, and in the same months of 1902 the number was 6,605.

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales.

Number of Receiving Orders Gazetted in the under-mentioned Periods and in the under-mentioned Principal Trades and Occupations.

	May.		Five Months ended May.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Total gazetted	No. 870	No. 369	No. 1,762	No. 1,758
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations :—				
Builders	28	28	140	119
Grocers, &c.	22	32	118	123
Publicans and hotel keepers, &c.	17	23	111	120
Farmers	11	10	66	82
Bakers	15	14	60	53
Boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers	13	13	54	46
Drapers, haberdashers, &c.	9	6	45	36
Decorators, painters, plumbers, &c.	6	12	48	51
Butchers	7	13	42	58
Greengrocers fruiterers, &c.	6	10	38	44
Tailors, &c.	8	5	36	26
Confectioners	8	3	28	15
Coal and coke merchants and dealers	3	3	17	18
Fishmongers, poulterers, &c.	6	7	26	28
Carriers, carmen, lightermen and hauliers	7	3	24	22
Auctioneers	5	4	28	18
Carpenters and joiners	4	5	21	16
Solicitors	3	3	21	13
Agents, commission and general	2	3	20	19
Tobaccoists, &c.	4	4	19	18
Clothiers, outfitters, &c.	3	—	19	9
Furniture dealers and makers	4	3	18	16
Clerks, commercial and general	6	3	18	17
Corn, flour, seed, hay, and straw merchants and dealers	5	3	16	16
Contractors	6	2	16	7
Jewellers, watchmakers, importers, silversmiths, &c.	3	4	15	24
Printers, booksellers, and publishers	7	—	15	12
Cab, omnibus and fly proprietors	—	5	14	10

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales—continued.

	May.		Five Months ended May.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Number gasetted in principal trades and occupations—continued:	No.	No.	No.	No.
Merchants, general	8	2	14	12
Lodging-house keepers	2	2	18	9
Provision merchants, &c.	2	5	18	15
Travellers, commercial	6	3	18	13
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	2	5	12	16
Gardeners, florists, &c.	—	2	12	8
Hairdressers	2	3	11	9
Carriage, &c., builders	4	2	11	15
Restaurant, coffee and eating-house keepers ...	8	3	11	6
Officers in Army	1	2	10	5
Milliners, dressmakers, &c.	2	1	9	5
Directors and promoters of public companies ...	2	2	9	13
Wheelwrights	1	1	9	6
General dealers	2	3	9	22
Saddlers and harness makers	1	4	8	11
Blacksmiths, farriers, &c.	—	2	8	10
Chemists, druggists and chemical manufacturers	8	2	8	9
China, glass, and earthenware, &c., dealers ...	2	2	8	8
Ironmongers	2	1	7	11
Stationers	8	1	7	7
Engineers and founders, &c.	5	3	7	14
Dairymen, cowkeepers, &c.	8	1	6	13
Bicycle, &c., manufacturers and dealers ...	2	1	6	7
Timber merchants and wood dealers	1	1	6	7
Brokers, stock and share	2	—	6	5
Woollen merchants and manufacturers... ..	1	1	5	5
Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses	1	1	5	10
Millers	1	1	5	8
Hosiery, gloves, &c.	8	1	5	6
Doctors of medicine, physicians, &c.	1	—	5	7
Cattle and pig dealers	2	—	4	7
Stone, marble and monumental masons, &c. ...	2	—	4	1
Wine and spirit merchants, &c.	—	2	3	5
Curriers, tanners, and leather merchants ...	1	—	3	3
Architects and surveyors	—	3	3	12
Cotton spinners and manufacturers	2	—	2	—
Fishing smack owners, and masters	—	1	1	2

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of May, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1902, in two volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 11d. for the first, and 5s. for the second volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and in the second volume details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 16th May:—State of the Labour Market in April; Workmen's Co-operative Productive Societies; the Railway Dispute in Victoria (Australia); Factories and Shops Law of Victoria—Report of Royal Commission; Labour Disputes and Conciliation and Arbitration in France in 1901; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the Annual Series issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,987. Bussorah, 1902.

Trade depressed. No noteworthy increase in imports, except in cotton goods.

Good prospects for export trade in millet and dari seed.

Statistics of imports, exports, and shipping.

Government Publications.

No. 2,988. California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, 1902.

Outlook for British trade.
Necessity for commercial travellers.

Extended planting of "alfalfa" (for stock feed).

Increased trade with the Orient.

This publication contains also reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Los Angeles and San Diego.

The labour situation. Advice to intending settlers.

Industries and the utilisation of water power for electrical purposes.

Returns of imports, exports, and shipping at San Francisco.

No. 2,989. Prussian Estimates for 1903-04.

Prussian revenue chiefly derived from railways, domains and forests, mines and salines.

Receipts from direct and indirect taxation.

Expenditure on various Government departments.

Decrease in income from railways.

Tables of estimated revenue and expenditure.

No. 2,990. Roumania, 1902.

Statistics of imports, with observations as to countries of origin and tendency of trade since 1897.

Export tables, with commentary. Destination of principal products.

This publication contains also reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Braila, Constantza and Sulina.

Shipping returns.

Table showing area sown and results of harvest in 1898—1902.

Hints as to trade openings and commercial travellers.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

South Africa. Draft Customs Union Convention. [Cd. 1,599.] Price 2d.

This is the draft Customs Union Convention now awaiting ratification, which was agreed to by representatives of the British Colonies and territories in South Africa at a conference held in Bloemfontein in March last. See p. 502.

Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks. Twentieth Report of the Comptroller-General. 177. Price 3d.

This report deals with the work of the Patent Office during the year 1902. The number of applications for patents and for regis-

Government Publications.

tration of designs and trade marks in 1902, as compared with the two preceding years, is shown by the following table :—

	1900.	1901.	1902.
	No.	No.	No.
Patents—			
Applications	23,922	26,777	28,976
Specifications—			
Provisional	18,119	20,816	22,609
Complete	13,093	13,583	14,877
Sealed	13,170	13,062	13,764
Designs—			
Applications	16,952	16,934	17,825
Registered	16,282	16,217	17,106
Trade Marks—			
Applications	7,937	8,776	8,899
Registered	3,223	3,246	3,404

The report states that in 1902 the development, noticed in previous years of inventions relating to electric traction, was continued, though not so rapidly as in 1901. There was again a large increase in the number of applications for motor cars, especially motor cycles. Much attention was also given to wireless telegraphy, and among other favourite subjects of invention were golf balls and clubs, and reversible outside seats for tramcars. In the early months of 1902 the popularity of the game of table tennis produced a large number of applications for racquets, nets, &c., but the increase had nearly disappeared at the close of the year.

The report also contains a statement on the principal enactments in foreign countries and British possessions during 1901, which either introduced legislation in regard to patents, trade marks, &c., or modified existing laws.

Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, 1902. Vol. II. [Cd. 1,617.] Price 5s.

This is the second volume of the Annual Statement of Trade, the first volume having been noticed on p. 380 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 21st May. This volume contains statements of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country and British possession during the years 1898-1902, and of the imports and exports at each British port during the same period as well as accounts of transshipment, warehousing and goods passing in transit.

Government Publications.

Food Supplies (Imported). Return. 179. Price 4½d.

This return has been prepared in the Board of Trade and shows the quantities of wheat and other kinds of grain, of live animals for food, meat and sugar imported into the United Kingdom in each year from 1870-1902 distinguishing the principal countries whence imported.

Commercial No. 4 (1903), Suez Canal. Returns of Shipping and Tonnage 1900, 1901, and 1902. [Cd. 1,537.] Price 1½d.

This is the annual report of the British Suez Canal Directors, and contains returns of shipping passing through the Canal during 1902. The number and net tonnage of the vessels which passed through the Suez Canal during the past three years was as under:—

			Vessels.		Net tonnage.
1900 ...	...	...	3,441	...	9,738,152
1901 ...	...	...	3,699	...	10,823,840
1902 ...	...	...	8,708	...	11,248,413

Last year 58·4 per cent. of the vessels using the Canal and 60·2 of the net tonnage were British, as compared with 56·1 and 57·8 per cent. respectively in 1901.

Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to enquire into certain questions affecting the Mercantile Marine. I. Report. [Cd. 1,607.] Price 2d.

This is the Report of the Committee appointed in January, 1902 (See "Board of Trade Journal," 16th January, 1902, p. 114), to enquire into and report upon the employment of foreigners in the British Merchant Service and other questions affecting the Mercantile Marine. The Committee recommend certain improvements in regard to victualling and seamen's quarters, that superintendents be empowered to forbid the engagements of foreign seamen who do not possess a sufficient knowledge of English to understand orders, that efforts be made to increase the numbers of the Royal Naval Reserve, that facilities be given for the naturalisation of foreign seamen who have served four years on British merchant vessels, that every encouragement be given to training ships and to the training of boys on merchant vessels, &c.

*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in *italics*.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
EUROPE—					
Denmark:			Russia:		
2934	Denmark (Supplimentary) 1901	1 <i>d.</i>	2979	Batoum... .. 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>
2984	Faroe Islands —	2½ <i>d.</i>	2943	Odesa (Supplementary) 1901	1½ <i>d.</i>
France and Colonies:			Servia:		
2949	Brest 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2958	Servia 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2976	Calais "	2 <i>d.</i>	Spain:		
2955	Cherbourg "	1½ <i>d.</i>	2924	Bilbao 1901	2½ <i>d.</i>
2941	French Guinea 1901	½ <i>d.</i>	2964	Bilbao 1902	2 <i>d.</i>
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ... 1902	½ <i>d.</i>	Turkey:		
2960	Havre "	3 <i>d.</i>	2970	Aleppo and Adana ... 1902	2 <i>d.</i>
2966	Indo-China "	½ <i>d.</i>	2987	Bussorah "	1 <i>d.</i>
2978	Nantes "	1 <i>d.</i>	2950	Constantinople "	2 <i>d.</i>
German Empire and Colonies:			2932	Crete 1901	1 <i>d.</i>
2982	Baden 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899-1901	2 <i>d.</i>
2971	Bavaria-Nuremberg ... "	1 <i>d.</i>	2962	Palestine 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2956	Chemnitz "	1 <i>d.</i>	589	<i>Mining Industries and Forestry in Turkey</i> ...	3 <i>d.</i>
2945	Estimates of the German Empire 1903	1 <i>d.</i>	AFRICA—		
2959	Germany 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2931	Alexandria ... 1901 and part of 1902	1 <i>d.</i>
2983	German Colonies 1901-02	2 <i>d.</i>	2948	Somaliland Protectorate 1901-02	2½ <i>d.</i>
2977	Pomerania 1902	3 <i>d.</i>	588	<i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda</i>	½ <i>d.</i>
2989	Prussian Estimates 1903-04	1 <i>d.</i>	AMERICA, NORTH—		
591	<i>German Technical High Schools</i>	3 <i>d.</i>	United States of America:		
Greece:			2967	Boston 1902	2½ <i>d.</i>
2957	Cyclades 1902	1 <i>d.</i>	2988	California "	3 <i>d.</i>
2953	Morea, and Provinces of Acarnania and Ætolia	1 <i>d.</i>	2952	Chicago... .. "	4 <i>d.</i>
2947	Thessaly "	1½ <i>d.</i>	2942	New Orleans "	2½ <i>d.</i>
Italy:			2972	New York "	1½ <i>d.</i>
2930	Finances of Italy 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky	1902 1½ <i>d.</i>
2933	Italy 1901	3 <i>d.</i>	2968	Texas "	2 <i>d.</i>
2936	Naples 1902	1½ <i>d.</i>	587	<i>Coal Industry of the United States in 1901</i>	2 <i>d.</i>
2935	Venice 1901-02	1½ <i>d.</i>			
Netherlands and Colonies:					
2965	Amsterdam 1902	1 <i>d.</i>			
2974	Java "	1½ <i>d.</i>			
Portugal:					
2954	Portugal 1902	½ <i>d.</i>			
Roumania:					
2990	Roumania "	2½ <i>d.</i>			

Government Publications.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
	Mexico:			WEST INDIES—	
2925	Mexico 1901	2½d.	2927	Hayti 1901	1d.
2951	Mexico City 1902	2½d.		ASIA—	
	AMERICA, CENTRAL—			China:	
2963	Nicaragua 1902	½d.	2985	Canton 1902	1½d.
	AMERICA, SOUTH—		2975	Chinkiang "	1d.
	Argentina:		2969	Hankow "	1½d.
2940	Argentine finances 1901-02	1½d.		Persia:	
2961	Buenos Ayres 1902	1½d.	580	<i>Trade and General Condition of the City and Province of Kermanshah...</i>	4d.
	Brazil:			Siam:	
2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	½d.	2929	Chiengmai 1901	1d.
2986	Pernambuco and Ceara ..	1d.		PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
2928	Rio de Janeiro 1901	1½d.	2937	Samoa 1902	1d.
	Chile:				
2946	Coquimbo 1901	½d.			

Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.		Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries	½d.
	Denmark:	
5	Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark for regulating the fisheries outside territorial waters in the ocean surrounding the Farø Islands and Iceland... ..	7½d.
	France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1d.
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	United States of America:	
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska	½d.

Government Publications.

No.		Price.
	AMERICA, CENTRAL—	
	Guatemala.	
6	Accession of Guatemala to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field.	½d.
	AMERICA, SOUTH—	
	Venezuela :	
8	Protocol between the United Kingdom and Venezuela relating to the settlement of British claims and other matters	½d.
	ASIA—	
	Corea :	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	½d.
7	International Convention relative to bounties on sugar ...	1½d.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½d.
378	British Guiana	2½d.
379	Mauritius	3½d.
380	Basutoland	8d.
381	Southern Nigeria	2½d.
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½d.
—	Cyprus	3d.
383	Bermuda	1½d.
384	St. Lucia	2d.
385	St. Vincent	2d.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1d. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.

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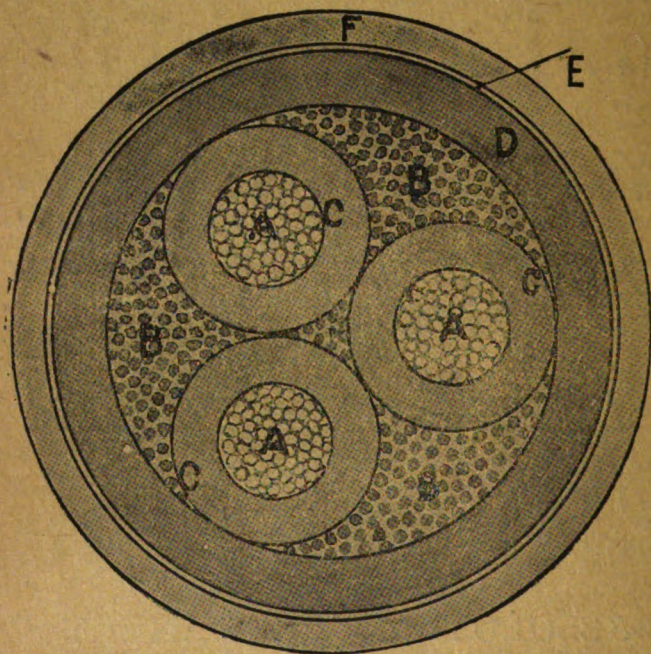
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Vol. XLI.

No. 342.

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THE

# Board of Trade Journal

(With which is incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

JUNE 18, 1903.

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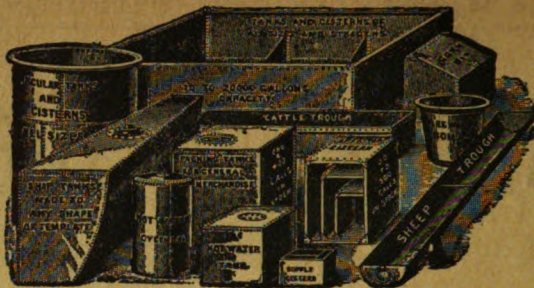


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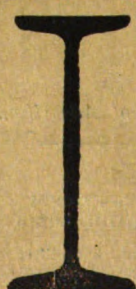


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# THE Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. XLI.]

June 18, 1903.

[No. 342.]

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Information on the subjects named in the notice on the cover will be found in the following Board of Trade publications, obtainable at Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, at the prices named, viz. :—

- 1) Statistical Abstract for the ( pp. 24/25
- 2) United Kingdom, 49th } p. 12
- 3) number (Cd. 1,239), at } pp. 49/155
- 4) 1s. 2d. ... } pp. 156/171, 188/191
- 4A Annual Statement of Trade, 1902.  
Vol. I. (Cd. 1,582) at 6s. 11d. ... pp. 132 to end
- 4B Annual Statement of Trade, 1902.  
Vol. II. (Cd. 1,617) at 5s. ... pp. 177/455
- 5) Annual Abstract of Labour } pp. 164/171
- 6) Statistics, 8th number } pp. 34/40
- (Cd. 1,124) at 11½d. ... }
- 7 Food Supplies (Imported) Return (179) at 4½d.
- 8 Colonial Import Duties Return (Cd. 1,356) at 1s. 11d.
- 9 Statistical Abstract for the several Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom, 39th number (Cd. 1,325) at 1s. 7d. ... pp. 34/205
- 9A Trade of British Possessions. Statement . . . . . during the year 1901 (Cd. 1,638) at 1d.
- 10 Foreign Import Duties Return (Cd. 780) at 1s. 10d.
- 11 Statistical Abstract for the principal and other foreign countries, 28th number (Cd. 1,237) at 1s. 6d. ... pp. 42/213
- 12 Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics (Cd. 720) at 1s. 4½d. ... pp. 1/161
- 13 Memorandum on the comparative Statistics of Population, Industry, and Commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading foreign countries (Cd. 1,199) at 5½d.



## OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

### UNITED KINGDOM.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: ADMIRALTY.

Tenders will be received until 12 noon on Tuesday, the 30th June, for the supply of Iron Plate Workers' Wares and Malleable Cast Iron Blocks.

**Tenders for Iron Plate Workers' Wares and Malleable Cast Iron Blocks.**

Forms of tender, containing conditions of contract and all particulars, may be obtained on and after Friday, the 19th June, on personal application at the Admiralty, or by letter addressed Director of Navy Contracts, Admiralty, London, S.W.

Patterns may be seen at the Admiralty Pattern Rooms, 72, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.

Forms of tender may also be obtained and patterns seen on and after Friday, the 19th June, at the Admiralty Pattern Rooms, Great Western Chambers, Livery Street, Birmingham.

### BRITISH INDIA.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply wheels and axles for the use of the Indian State Railways.

**Tenders for Wheels and Axles.**

The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by two o'clock p.m. on Tuesday the 23rd June, after which time no tender will be received.

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade to the effect that the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of: 1. Rolling stock—underframes and fittings for 85 goods vehicles. 2. Carriage and waggon fittings. 3. Stores, comprising hardware, iron, steel, metals, oils and colours and sundries. 4. Locomotive stores, comprising copper and steel plates, tyres, axles and springs. 5. Stationery, comprising paper, envelopes, tickets and sundries.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's offices, 55, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Tenders addressed to the Chairman and Directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, and marked "Tender for rolling stock," or as the case may be, must be left with the Managing Director not later than 12 noon of Tuesday, the 30th June.



---

*Openings for British Trade.*

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**BRITISH INDIA**—*continued.*

The Company is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender. A charge, which will not be returned, will be made of 20s. for each copy of specifications 1 and 3, and of 10s. for each copy of 2, 4, and 5.

Copies of the drawings may be obtained at the office of Sir George B. Bruce, 3, Victoria Street, Westminster, on payment of 5s. per sheet.

An announcement appears in "Indian Engineering" of 23rd May, to the effect that the Commissioners for the port of Rangoon are prepared to receive offers for the execution of the following works:—

**Tenders for  
Port Works.**

(1) Providing and placing in position at site, 3 iron and steel pontoon landing stages. Each stage to be 204 ft. long by 42 ft. broad, and connected to the shore by 2 bowstring girder bridges 108 ft. long by 13 ft. 6 in. wide.

(2) Reclamation of foreshore, construction of road, building of about 3,000 lineal feet of river-wall and the masonry work and excavation in connection with abutments to pontoon landing stages.

(3) Provision and erection of 3 corrugated iron transit-sheds, each 150 ft. long by 50 ft. broad.

Drawings may be seen and copies of the specifications, bills of quantities, and forms of tender obtained, in Burma, at the Port Trust Office, and in India at the office of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co., No. 5, Clive-street, Calcutta.

Tenders to be in sealed covers, marked "New Works, Section A 1," should be addressed to the Chairman and Chief Engineer, Rangoon Port Trust, Rangoon, and will be received up to noon on Wednesday, 15th July.

Each tender should be accompanied with a deposit as earnest-money in cash or public securities of—

Rs. 2,000 in case of No. 1 work,

Rs. 2,000 in case of No. 2 work,

Rs. 500 in case of No. 3 work,

which shall be forfeited if the tenderer whose tender has been accepted neglects to sign the formal contract within a fortnight of the acceptance of his tender. Both earnest-money and security deposit, which together shall be equal to 5 per cent. of the tendered amount for the work, are liable to forfeiture in case of default.

The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### CANADA.

The "Monetary Times" (Toronto) of the 29th May comments on the difficulty which hardware factories have experienced in keeping up with immediate needs. In no article has this caused more inconvenience than in spades and shovels. For a long time lawn-mowers were impossible to obtain, and it is stated that at the end of May deliveries were of a hand to mouth character.

These difficulties are attributed to the action of the unions in obstructing any organised action for obtaining a much-needed increase in the supply of skilled mechanics.

At the same date, good Portland cement of either Canadian or English manufacture was stated to be hard to obtain under 2.40 dols. or 2.50 dols. in Toronto, and 2.15 dols. to 2.40 dols. in Montreal.

**Cement.**

#### NATAL.

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade to the effect that the Pietermaritzburg Corporation invite tenders subject to General Conditions and Specification No. 4, for electric cables, feeder boxes, junction boxes, cable terminals and telephones.

**Tenders for  
Electric Tramway  
Material.**

Specifications may be seen at the offices of the Corporation's Electrical and Tramways Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Mordey and Dawbarn, of 82, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on and after 22nd June 1903, and may be obtained from them on payment of a deposit of three guineas, which will be returned on receipt of a *bona fide* tender.

Sealed tenders endorsed "Tender for the supply of electrical cables, &c.," must be addressed to the Corporation's London agents, Messrs. Ford Bros., of 12, Southampton Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W., not later than noon on 6th July, 1903.

With reference to the notice published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 6th November, 1902, respecting rewards offered for the encouragement of the ham and bacon industry in Natal, a further notification appears in the "Natal Government Gazette" of 12th May, to the effect that the rewards so offered shall be limited to one reward of 500*l.* in each of the three years commencing 1st July, 1903, 1st July, 1904, and 1st July, 1905.

Such reward will be paid to the competitor who, having satisfied the requirements of the Government notice on the subject, shall, in the judgment of the Commissioner of Industries, have best fulfilled the prescribed conditions in the year for which the reward is payable.



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

A recent issue of the "Bulletin" of the French Chamber of Commerce at Sydney remarks that the trade in pianos and musical instruments of all kinds is developing so much in Australia that it is well worth the attention of manufacturers.

Preference is given to pianos with crossed strings, which give a louder tone to the instrument; and in the construction, care must be taken to provide for climatic conditions in Australia. The case should be of iron, in one piece, and the sounding board screwed down. The question of packing and transport expenses demands special attention, and the general rule of sending the pianos free on board and packing free should be adhered to.

There is considered to be a good market for brass instruments and also for strings.

#### BELGIUM.

The "Moniteur Belge" of the 8th/9th June contains an announcement to the effect that tenders will be opened on the 1st July, by the "Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux," at No. 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels, for the construction of the section from Bois-Seigneur-Isaac to Ittre, on the local line from Nivelles to Virginal and Braine-l'Alleud.

The upset price of the work is 84,991 francs (3,400*l.*), and a deposit of 8,000 francs (320*l.*) is required. Tenders by registered letter must be addressed to the Director-General of the Company at the address given above, where they will be received not later than 30th June. Plans, estimates, and conditions of contract may be seen at the Company's office and at the office of M. Darteville, Rue de Turquie No. 18, St. Gillés, Bruxelles.

A statement of the conditions of contract may be obtained at the offices named on payment of 1 franc.

The "Moniteur Belge" of the 11th June announces that tenders are invited for the provision of leaden seals for use in the Belgian Customs and Excise, as follows:—

**Tenders for  
Leaden Seals.**

Model A, each weighing 18 grammes, 25,000 kilogs.

" B, " 3 " 2,700 "

Conditions of contract may be procured and the models examined on application at the Ministry of Finance and Public Works, Rue de Beyaert, No. 5, Bureau No. 50, Brussels, between 10 a.m. and 12 midday. Tenders must be addressed to the same office before the 27th June.



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### PORTUGAL.

The "Diario do Governo" of 9th June contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the 23rd June, in the Secretariat of the "Junta do Credito Publico," Lisbon, for the supply of stationery during the fiscal year 1903-1904 to the said office. Particulars, with a list of the articles (47), are given in the "Diario." A provisional deposit of 100 milreis, or about 18*l.*, is required to qualify any tender, indicating a contract value of about 720*l.*

The "Diario" of 12th June contains a similar notice calling for tenders, which will be opened at 1 p.m. on the 4th July next, in the Ministry of Public Works, Lisbon, for the supply of stationery to the Secretariat of the said Ministry during the year 1903-4. The list of the articles is to be seen in the Ministry named, but the amount of the contract would appear to be only about 143*l.*

The "Diarios" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

#### SPAIN.

Referring to the notice which appeared on p. 341 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 21st May, it is to be observed that the "Gaceta de Madrid" of 8th June contains an announcement to the effect that the competition for the supply of 16,980 metres of cotton drill, for the service of the hospitals, is postponed until further advice.

Referring to the notice which appeared on p. 429 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 26th February last, with reference to the construction of a telegraph cable between Fernando Po and the Cameroons, attention is now called to a notice in the "Gaceta de Madrid" of 11th June, stating that, as the calls hitherto made for tenders for the manufacture and laying of the said cable have had no result, proposals are invited for 30 days (at the Directorate-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Madrid, as before) upon such technical and economic conditions as the tenderers may consider proper, provided they limit themselves to the ordinary types of cables which are actually used, or superior ones.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 13th June contains a Royal Order authorising the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, and Public Works to purchase, without the formalities of calling for tenders, the apparatus and lantern with its

**Tenders for the Supply of Stationery.**

**Tenders for Cotton Drill.**

**Telegraph Cable.**

**Lighthouse Lantern and Accessories.**



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### **SPAIN—continued.**

case ("torreon") complete, for the lighthouse of Pollensa, in the Balears, at the upset price of 17,904 pesetas, or about 522*l*.

The "Gacetas" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

#### **AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.**

The Board of Trade have received a notification, through the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General in London, of an International competition instituted by the Austrian Government for canal lift works. The special case covered by the offer is a complete project for lifting-pump works to overcome the fall of 35.9 metres (117.8 ft.) in the Danube-Oder Canal at Anjezd, Moravia.

The aim is to secure effectual navigation of this canal with a minimum of water. Vessels up to a size of 67 m. total length by 8.2 m. breadth, by 1.8 m. draft (219.8 ft. by 26.9 ft. by 5.9 ft.) are to be accommodated, and the lifting works must have a capacity of 30 vessels of maximum size each way per day of 24 hours.

Three prizes, amounting to 100,000 crowns (4,000*l*.), 75,000 crowns (3,000*l*.), and 50,000 crowns (2,000*l*.) respectively, will be awarded for the best plans submitted to the Austrian Minister of Commerce. If a plan which is accepted be given for construction to a person other than the prize holder, the latter will receive 200,000 crowns (8,000*l*.) in addition, provided that the works prove successful.

The competition closes 31st March, 1904. Designs will be received in a specified form by the Imperial Ministry of Commerce, Vienna. The conditions of the competition (in the original), and also plans, with contours, borings, &c., may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

According to the "Revue d'Orient" (Budapest) of the 1st June, the Hungarian Minister of Finance has announced the projected floating of a loan of 147,300,000 crowns (6,139,500*l*.) for the extension of the State railway system, and for the execution of various other works of public utility.

Of this amount, 117,419,000 crowns (4,892,000*l*.) will be devoted to railways, including the construction of a line from Nagy-berezna to the Galician frontier, doubling of the Galanta-



### *Openings for British Trade.*

Zsolna line, construction of the Ersekujvar-Komarom line with bridge over the Danube, completion of the Szekelyfold Railway, construction of the Baja-Battaszek line with bridge over the Danube, &c.

Among the public works other than railways may be noted the enlargement of the port of Fiume, and construction of new floating docks (5,500,000 crowns); construction and reconstruction of bridges on national roads (7,500,000 crowns); additions and improvements to the plant of the State iron works (14,000,000 crowns); construction of various public buildings (about 27,000,000 crowns).

### ROUMANIA.

According to the "Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels" of the 11th June, tenders will be received up to the 10th August (new style), at the Directorate of the Roumanian railways at Bucharest, for the construction of a twin-screw ship adapted for the use of petroleum as fuel. The vessel is required to have a minimum speed of 18 knots an hour, with accommodation for 100 first-class, 30 second-class, and 300 third class passengers, 1,000 tons of merchandise and 500 tons of fuel, and is intended for service on the Constantza-Constantinople-Alexandria line.

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

H.M. Consul-General at San Francisco, in his recent report, points out that the great cleverness of American artists in copying any attractive design on the market has practically closed the silverware trade of that district to British goods. There are, however, certain classes of goods, such as candelabras and salvers, which have not yet been copied, although they sell well. These articles come from Birmingham. As soon as an article is copied the British trade is lost. The Consul-General adds: A British silver-backed brush was shown to him, price 12 dols. A copy, American, apparently equally good, could be had for 5 dols. The duty on the former was 12s.

|                            |                                                                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Clocks and Watches.</b> | British clocks and watches are, says the Consul-General, hardly on the market at all. |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Further on in his report the Consul-General remarks that the bulk of the linen goods imported into that district are of British manufacture, and they continued to hold their own in a satisfactory manner during the year 1902.

**Linen Goods.** Most of the business is done by agents of the large buyers who proceed to New York, where they meet the representatives of the manufacturers and inspect their samples. The goods are then, as



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

a rule, sent through to San Francisco in bond direct from Liverpool.

Increased competition from domestic sources must, however, be expected in the immediate future, several large factories in the Eastern States in course of erection being intended for the production of linen goods.

The Consul-General adds that when the new Eastern factories are in full working order American travellers will bring American samples to San Francisco to the doors of the buyers, and by degrees the buyers will cease to trouble to inspect British samples in New York. The trade will drop off as it has in many other instances. The samples must be brought to the buyers by British travellers or the trade will be lost.

With regard to cloth, H.M. Consul-General states that of the

#### **Cloth.**

imported article the British continue to enjoy the bulk of the trade, but the home manufacturers are constantly improving the quality of their goods, and competition from this quarter becomes keener each year. Most of the large British manufacturers have established agencies in New York, and most of the buying is done there, or on samples sent out from the United Kingdom to wholesale firms at San Francisco with whom they have connections.

A retail tailor there, who uses imported cloth entirely, states that in his opinion the British manufacturers might extend their business by dealing direct with the large tailoring establishments in San Francisco, thus reducing the number of hands through which the goods have to pass (which adds so much to the cost to the consumer), besides securing the benefit of through rates. On different occasions, when his firm have applied to the manufacturers in the United Kingdom, they have been referred to the London office or the New York agents, from neither of whom could they obtain quotations of the lowest possible price, without which it is impossible to compete successfully with domestic goods. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,988.*)

#### **CHILE.**

With reference to the notice on p. 341 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 21st May, the "Diario Oficial" of

#### **Sale of Nitrate Grounds.**

Chile of 17th April, since to hand, contains a decree fixing the 20th November next for the disposal at public bidding in Santiago de Chile of 21 nitrate grounds belonging to the State. The reserved prices amount altogether to 6,728,983-45 Chilean dols., or 504,674*l.* Offers may be by lot, of which there are 21, and will have to be accompanied by a provisional deposit of 25 per cent. of the reserved price of the lot or lots bid for.

The "Diario" containing the above notice may be seen on



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*Openings for British Trade.*

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application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

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**PERU.**

The Board of Trade have received from the Consul for Peru in Southampton a pamphlet containing particulars of the plan for the re-construction of the Government House in Lima. Plans for the execution of this work may be presented up to 31st December next in the Directorate of Public Works, Lima, and will be referred to a committee for consideration and report. The Government will grant a first prize of 300*l.* and a second prize of 100*l.* to the author or authors of the plans approved by the said committee. The pamphlet contains a list of approximate prices of labour and materials in Lima, and may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

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**BRAZIL.**

In response to an enquiry, H.M. Consul at Porto Alegre has reported to the Foreign Office that the Federal Government of Brazil, which has exclusive control over the ports and harbours of the Union, was authorised by the National Congress to grant a concession, by means of public competition, for the construction of a harbour in the Bay of Sao Domingos das Torres and a railway to connect it with Porto Alegre.

So far the Government has not made any announcement calling for applications, and no concession can be granted legally except as the result of open competition. . . . The concession for the railway is derived from the Government of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, but in this case there appears to be an understanding with the Federal Government to unite the two undertakings into one scheme. Nothing definite seems to be known at present, and the matter is entirely in the hands of the Federal Government.

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**JAPAN.**

According to the "Monetary Times" (Toronto) of 29th May, the Hon. Sydney Fisher, in the course of a statement regarding the many opportunities for Canadian trade noticed by him during his recent commercial mission to Japan, reports that all kinds of lumber are wanted in that country; that an excellent opening exists for furniture, and that the sale of paper of all kinds, of metallic roofing and of ceiling material could easily be extended.

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*Openings for British Trade.*


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**EXHIBITIONS.****UNITED KINGDOM.**

With reference to the notice published on p. 597 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 19th March last, it may be noted that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland have placed on view at the International Building Trades Exhibition now being held (13th June-20th June) in the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, the extensive collection of Irish building stones and building material which was recently exhibited at the Imperial Institute. The exhibit embraces samples of the building materials and marbles in which Ireland is particularly rich, and it is expected that the opportunity of examining these samples will be of advantage to those who are concerned in the many large building schemes now in progress in London and elsewhere.

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**THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.**
**Meeting of the Advisory Committee.**

A Meeting of the Board of Trade Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence was held on the 17th June at the Offices of the Board in Richmond Terrace, Whitehall. Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G., was in the chair, and the other Members of the Committee present were Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith (Deputy Chairman), the Right Hon. The Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G., Mr. F. Brittain (Ex-President of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce), Mr. T. Craig-Brown (of the South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce), Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., Mr. C. A. Harris, C.M.G., Sir Alfred Hickman, M.P., Mr. T. W. Holderness, C.S.I., Sir William Holland, M.P., and Mr. Algernon Law (of the Foreign Office), with Mr. G. J. Stanley of the Board of Trade, the Secretary of the Committee. Mr. T. Worthington, the Principal of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board, was also in attendance.

The principal business at the meeting had relation to the new Russian "General" tariff and the proposed new "General" tariff for Austria-Hungary, and the best means of obtaining the views of the commercial community with regard to the effect of these tariffs on British trade. A sub-committee was appointed to communicate with the principal Chambers of Commerce and other bodies on the subject, and it was also decided to take the necessary steps to obtain the views of the commercial community in India and the Colonies with regard to these tariffs.

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## BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

**Los Angeles.**—In his recent report the British Vice-Consul at Los Angeles gives the following replies to certain questions bearing on trade in his district:—

1. "How can British trade be forwarded in the district?"—By the appointment of Englishmen, who are familiar with American business methods, as resident agents.

2. "What are the hindrances to trade?"—The high tariff, and the absence of resident agents interested in the promotion of British trade.

3. "How can these hindrances be overcome?"—In process of time the tariff may possibly be lowered. In the meanwhile, such articles as the Americans require and cannot produce here can be sold if there are resident agents to push the sale.

4. "On what lines is British trade conducted?"—It is entirely in the hands of large wholesale importing houses in San Francisco and the Eastern States.

5. "Do travellers representing British houses visit the town?"—With the exception of a traveller for a Scotch firm selling whisky, I am not aware of any travellers coming to Los Angeles.

6. "Do they come direct from the United Kingdom or from the East?"—The traveller referred to came here from New York, where he had been doing some business, and was making a tour of the country.

7. "Do they travel for British goods alone, or carry samples of American and German goods?"—The traveller referred to had only Scotch goods.

8. "Is this system in the interests of British trade?"—It certainly is not.

9. "What changes in the system will tend to further trade?"—I refer to my answer to query 1. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,988.*)

**Kermanshah.**—In a report on the trade of the city and province of Kermanshah, issued by the Foreign Office, Mr. H. L. Rabino, Agent of the Imperial Bank of Persia, relates that the commercial importance of Kermanshah has gradually developed since the opening of the Suez Canal, and is due to its being the frontier town on the trade route between Baghdad and Persia. The great drawback to this as a trade route is the delay which frequently takes place between Busreh (Bussorah) and Baghdad, towards the end of the summer, owing to the shallowness of the river.

The total imports to Kermanshah *via* Baghdad during the year ended 20th March, 1902, amounted to 46,749,979 krans, and taking the 11. at 54 krans, its value on 20th March, 1902, this gives a total of 865,740l. The principal items forming this total are as follows:—



*British Trade Abroad.*

| From—               | Articles.                                              | Value.     |           |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
|                     |                                                        | Currency.  | Sterling. |
|                     |                                                        | Krans.     | £         |
| United Kingdom ...  | Manchester goods, prints, cotton and woollen goods ... | 35,337,488 | 654,398   |
|                     | Sewing thread ...                                      | 741,085    | 13,724    |
|                     | Clothing, &c. ...                                      | 167,100    | 3,095     |
|                     | Iron, lead, tin, zinc and steel ...                    | 712,864    | 13,201    |
| India ...           | Spices, pepper and dried fruits ...                    | 880,435    | 16,304    |
|                     | Indigo ...                                             | 54,390     | 1,007     |
|                     | Tea ...                                                | 1,548,084  | 28,668    |
| France ...          | Sugar (5,313,009 lbs.) ...                             | 3,635,832  | 67,145    |
|                     | Candles ...                                            | 35,464     | 656       |
| Austria-Hungary ... | Matches ...                                            | 46,806     | 866       |
|                     | Glassware ...                                          | 109,262    | 2,023     |
|                     | China-ware ...                                         | 43,080     | 800       |
| Bagdad and Arabia   | Spirits ...                                            | 17,540     | 325       |
|                     | Coffee ...                                             | 33,905     | 627       |
|                     | Dates ...                                              | 736,341    | 13,636    |
|                     | Lamb-skins ...                                         | 1,056,940  | 19,573    |
|                     | Raw hides ...                                          | 262,873    | 4,868     |

The imports from the United Kingdom supply Kurdistan, Hamadan, Sultanabad, Khoremad, and all the district included in these limits. Manchester prints, *vid* Kermanshah, are also sent to Isfahan and Teheran, and so is tea, but it is difficult to get at accurate figures of this inland trade.

Sugar from Marseilles cannot stand the cost of transport from Kermanshah to Hamadan to compete with Russian sugar in the Hamadan market, but it goes to Sultanabad.

The Austrian goods are chiefly for local use.

Raw hides from Bagdad are tanned in Hamadan and sold in Persia.

Lamb-skins from Bagdad are dressed in Hamadan and then go to Russia *vid* Resht or Tabriz. (*Foreign Office, Miscellaneous Series, 590.*)

**Buenos Aires.**—In a recent despatch to the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul at Buenos Aires reports that, with the object of giving publicity in Argentina to the enquiries which reach the Consulate by every mail from manufacturers in Britain and others parts of the British Empire, he has made arrangements with the publishers of the English newspapers in Buenos Aires to insert weekly a list of such enquiries, headed by a note to the effect that letters from such persons in that city as are interested in the goods mentioned, if sent to the Consulate, will be forwarded to the original enquirers. The publishers of the newspapers have been good enough to undertake to insert the notices (if not too long) free of charge.



### TRADE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

The following summary table has been prepared, showing the total imports and exports of the principal countries for which the particulars can be given up to March, 1903, inclusive, and referring in all cases to the same period, viz., the three months ended March. The corresponding figures for 1902 and 1901 are added for comparison:—

|                  | Imports.<br>Three Months ended March. |             |             | Exports (Domestic).<br>Three Months ended March. |            |            |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                  | 1901.                                 | 1902.       | 1903.       | 1901.                                            | 1902.      | 1903.      |
|                  | £                                     | £           | £           | £                                                | £          | £          |
| Germany ...      | 65,994,000                            | 66,921,000  | 74,334,000  | 52,620,000                                       | 53,070,000 | 58,625,000 |
| Belgium* ...     | 19,173,000                            | 21,381,000  | 23,262,000  | 16,347,000                                       | 17,342,000 | 18,539,000 |
| France... ..     | 44,822,000                            | 46,655,000  | 48,366,000  | 35,942,000                                       | 39,763,000 | 41,988,000 |
| Spain* ... ..    | 8,556,000                             | 7,866,000   | 7,774,000   | 6,153,000                                        | 6,514,000  | 7,380,000  |
| Austria-Hungary  | 16,888,000                            | 17,494,000  | 19,724,000  | 17,396,000                                       | 18,616,000 | 20,365,000 |
| Egypt ... ..     | 8,673,000                             | 8,469,000   | 8,954,000   | 4,761,000                                        | 5,059,000  | 5,795,000  |
| United States... | 48,687,000                            | 48,274,000  | 54,977,000  | 76,282,000                                       | 68,851,000 | 79,852,000 |
| Japan ... ..     | 6,569,000                             | 6,683,000   | 8,480,000   | 5,418,000                                        | 5,731,000  | 6,120,000  |
| British India... | 14,638,000                            | 13,808,000  | 13,776,000  | 20,007,000                                       | 23,395,000 | 25,693,000 |
| Canada ... ..    | 8,384,000                             | 9,410,000   | 10,883,000  | 5,723,000                                        | 6,454,000  | 7,733,000  |
| United Kingdom   | 133,619,000                           | 132,694,000 | 132,121,000 | 72,787,000                                       | 67,799,000 | 70,812,000 |

\* Value of *principal* articles only.

In the case of Germany, Belgium, France, Austria-Hungary, Japan, and Canada, the import figures given in the above summary represent imports for home consumption only. In all cases the export figures represent exports of domestic produce.

A comparison of the total figures for the four months ended 30th April is possible for four countries, as follow, viz.:—

|                   | Imports.<br>Four Months ended April. |             |             | Exports (Domestic).<br>Four Months ended April. |            |             |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
|                   | 1901.                                | 1902.       | 1903.       | 1901.                                           | 1902.      | 1903.       |
|                   | £                                    | £           | £           | £                                               | £          | £           |
| Belgium* ... ..   | 26,697,000                           | 29,845,000  | 31,235,000  | 21,703,000                                      | 22,747,000 | 24,651,000  |
| France... ..      | 58,611,000                           | 61,734,000  | 64,063,000  | 51,929,000                                      | 55,828,000 | 56,246,000  |
| United States ... | 59,682,000                           | 63,654,000  | 73,251,000  | 100,883,000                                     | 91,068,000 | 102,198,000 |
| United Kingdom    | 178,373,000                          | 178,842,000 | 177,885,000 | 92,799,000                                      | 91,291,000 | 95,924,000  |

\* Value of *principal* articles only.

The latest figures available as regards other countries from which returns are received by the Board of Trade, are as follows:—

|                     | Imports.   |            |            | Exports (Domestic). |            |            |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
|                     | 1901.      | 1902.      | 1903.      | 1901.               | 1902.      | 1903.      |
|                     | £          | £          | £          | £                   | £          | £          |
| Portugal (1 month)  | 1,191,000  | 1,108,000  | 1,014,000  | 462,000             | 535,000    | 536,000    |
| Italy (2 months)    | 10,306,000 | 11,228,000 | 11,943,000 | 8,262,000           | 9,051,000  | 9,599,000  |
| Mexico (1 month)    | 1,195,000  | 1,026,000  | 1,195,000  | 1,146,000           | 1,419,000  | 1,308,000  |
|                     | (1900.)    | (1901.)    | (1902.)    | (1900.)             | (1901.)    | (1902.)    |
| Russia† (12 months) | 60,384,000 | 56,254,000 | 53,637,000 | 72,668,000          | 77,034,000 | 87,113,000 |

† European and Black Sea Frontiers.

For detailed particulars regarding the trade of the several countries, reference should be made to the "Accounts relating to the Trade and Commerce of certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions" (54 III./1903), including figures received up to 31st May, published by Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode at 4d.



## TRADE OF FRENCH COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS IN 1901.

The French "Journal Officiel" of the 20th March published detailed statistics of the import and export trade of the French Colonies and Dependencies, from which it appears that the total volume of trade in 1901 amounted to 839,129,000 francs, an increase of 58,720,000 francs compared with the preceding year, and of 237,147,000 francs compared with the average of the preceding quinquennial period. This total was made up as follows:—

| —              | 1901.                  | Increase over<br>1900. | Increase over<br>preceding<br>Five Years. |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Imports ... .. | Franks.<br>474,611,000 | Franks.<br>38,587,000  | Franks.<br>160,231,000                    |
| Exports ... .. | 364,518,000            | 20,133,000             | 76,916,000                                |
| Total ... ..   | 839,129,000            | 58,720,000             | 237,147,000                               |

The following comparative statement shows the total value of the import trade of the various colonies and dependencies in 1900 and 1901:—

### Imports.

| Into                             | 1900.                |                             |                               |                       | 1901.                |                             |                               |                       |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                  | From<br>France.      | From<br>French<br>Colonies. | From<br>Foreign<br>Countries. | Total.                | From<br>France.      | From<br>French<br>Colonies. | From<br>Foreign<br>Countries. | Total.                |
|                                  | 1,000<br>franks.     | 1,000<br>franks.            | 1,000<br>franks.              | 1,000<br>franks.      | 1,000<br>franks.     | 1,000<br>franks.            | 1,000<br>franks.              | 1,000<br>franks.      |
| Senegal ... ..                   | 29,093               | 2,895                       | 14,817                        | 46,805                | 39,260               | 3,884                       | 20,924                        | 64,074                |
| Guinea ... ..                    | 4,283                | 55                          | 9,937                         | 14,275                | 3,096                | 99                          | 4,560                         | 7,755                 |
| Ivory Coast ... ..               | 2,401                | 174                         | 6,505                         | 9,081                 | 1,996                | 179                         | 5,111                         | 7,286                 |
| Dahomey ... ..                   | 3,283                | 2                           | 11,937                        | 15,222                | 2,151                | *                           | 13,601                        | 15,752                |
| Congo ... ..                     | 4,863                | 16                          | 5,676                         | 10,555                | 4,047                | 16                          | 3,922                         | 7,985                 |
| Réunion ... ..                   | 13,693               | 2,752                       | 5,584                         | 22,029                | 12,566               | 3,917                       | 7,293                         | 23,776                |
| Madagascar ... ..                | 34,788               | 2,042                       | 3,641                         | 40,471                | 35,582               | 5,298                       | 5,153                         | 40,033                |
| Mayotte ... ..                   | 235                  | 153                         | 123                           | 511                   | 67                   | *                           | 419                           | 486                   |
| Somali Coast ... ..              | 2,332                | 20                          | 3,577                         | 5,929                 | 3,231                | 81                          | 4,022                         | 7,334                 |
| India (French) ... ..            | 894                  | 111                         | 3,033                         | 4,038                 | 858                  | 30                          | 2,904                         | 3,792                 |
| Indo-China ... ..                | 72,424               | 1,802                       | 111,818                       | 186,044               | 96,196               | 3,971                       | 102,311                       | 202,478               |
| New Caledonia ... ..             | 5,864                | 182                         | 6,116                         | 12,162                | 7,377                | 184                         | 6,121                         | 13,682                |
| Tahiti ... ..                    | 579                  | —                           | 2,932                         | 3,511                 | 688                  | —                           | 3,868                         | 4,556                 |
| St. Pierre et<br>Miquelon ... .. | 4,292                | 89                          | 4,945                         | 9,326                 | 4,369                | 70                          | 5,391                         | 9,830                 |
| Guadeloupe ... ..                | 10,094               | 886                         | 10,393                        | 21,373                | 10,686               | 954                         | 8,953                         | 20,593                |
| Martinique ... ..                | 10,760               | 1,706                       | 12,463                        | 24,929                | 14,596               | 1,396                       | 10,981                        | 26,973                |
| French Guiana ... ..             | 6,783                | 284                         | 2,695                         | 9,762                 | 8,425                | 358                         | 3,441                         | 12,224                |
| Total { 1,000 frs.<br>£          | 206,662<br>8,266,000 | 13,170<br>527,000           | 216,192<br>8,648,000          | 436,024<br>17,441,000 | 249,169<br>9,967,000 | 16,467<br>659,000           | 208,975<br>8,359,000          | 474,611<br>18,984,000 |

\* Under 500 francs.



*Trade of French Colonies and Possessions in 1901.*

The value of the total exports from each of the French Colonies and dependencies in 1900 and 1901 is shown in the following table:—

**Exports.**

| From                       | 1900.                |                     |                       |                       | 1901.                |                     |                       |                       |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                            | To France.           | To French Colonies. | To Foreign Countries. | Total.                | To France.           | To French Colonies. | To Foreign Countries. | Total.                |
|                            | 1,000 francs.        | 1,000 francs.       | 1,000 francs.         | 1,000 francs.         | 1,000 francs.        | 1,000 francs.       | 1,000 francs.         | 1,000 francs.         |
| Senegal ...                | 26,933               | 84                  | 5,915                 | 32,932                | 31,358               | 105                 | 6,742                 | 38,205                |
| Guinea... ..               | 1,092                | 231                 | 8,832                 | 10,155                | 1,226                | 199                 | 6,558                 | 7,983                 |
| Ivory Coast ...            | 1,737                | 1                   | 6,337                 | 8,075                 | 2,150                | 1                   | 4,392                 | 6,543                 |
| Dahomey ...                | 4,773                | —                   | 7,983                 | 12,756                | 4,006                | 3                   | 6,469                 | 10,478                |
| Congo ...                  | 2,608                | 2                   | 4,930                 | 7,540                 | 2,441                | 1                   | 4,880                 | 7,322                 |
| Réunion ...                | 16,192               | 818                 | 452                   | 17,462                | 17,285               | 672                 | 244                   | 18,201                |
| Madagascar ...             | 7,310                | 416                 | 2,898                 | 10,624                | 6,084                | 399                 | 2,493                 | 8,976                 |
| Mayotte ...                | 638                  | 168                 | —                     | 806                   | 835                  | 166                 | —                     | 1,001                 |
| Somali Coast ...           | 432                  | 20                  | 1,866                 | 2,318                 | 212                  | 49                  | 6,584                 | 6,845                 |
| India (French)...          | 5,560                | 951                 | 4,211                 | 10,722                | 13,022               | 2,989               | 6,242                 | 22,253                |
| Indo-China ...             | 31,545               | 3,282               | 120,773               | 155,600               | 33,425               | 6,193               | 120,990               | 160,608               |
| New Caledonia..            | 3,344                | 1                   | 5,625                 | 8,870                 | 2,886                | *                   | 3,170                 | 11,056                |
| Tahiti ...                 | 534                  | —                   | 3,063                 | 3,597                 | 815                  | —                   | 2,211                 | 3,026                 |
| St. Pierre et Miquelon ... | 10,576               | 1,622               | 1,269                 | 13,467                | 9,152                | 1,136               | 1,444                 | 11,732                |
| Guadeloupe ...             | 14,851               | 762                 | 104                   | 15,717                | 16,667               | 761                 | 48                    | 17,476                |
| Martinique ...             | 24,739               | 996                 | 1,426                 | 27,161                | 22,078               | 833                 | 1,105                 | 24,016                |
| French Guiana..            | 6,111                | 62                  | 411                   | 6,584                 | 8,104                | 189                 | 482                   | 8,775                 |
| Total { 1,000 frs. £       | 158,975<br>6,359,000 | 9,417<br>377,000    | 175,993<br>7,040,000  | 344,385<br>13,775,000 | 171,747<br>6,870,000 | 13,715<br>549,000   | 179,056<br>7,162,000  | 364,518<br>14,581,000 |

\* Under 500 francs.

## PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

### FRANCE.

With reference to the notice which appeared at pp. 358-9 of the "Journal" for the 19th February last, relative to a Bill before the French Chamber proposing to modify the Customs treatment of imported oleaginous seeds and oils derived therefrom, the Board of Trade are now in receipt of a copy of a recent issue of the French "Dépêche Coloniale" containing the text of this proposed measure as subsequently amended.

The Bill has been altered by the reduction of all the new rates of duty proposed to be levied on oleaginous seeds and oils derived therefrom, and by the insertion of a clause providing for the complete exemption from duty of these articles if imported from a French Colony.

The text of the amended Bill, in original, may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.



## TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS. AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

A copy of the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 2nd May last has been received, containing a **Customs Decision.** dated 29th April, 1903, notifying that under section 139 of the Customs Act of 1901, "saponin" will be charged duty as "Foaming powders" (20 per cent. *ad valorem*) on importation into the Commonwealth.

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### SOUTH AFRICA.

A copy of a telegram has been received, through the Colonial Office, from the High Commissioner of South Africa as to the collection of increased duties under the South African Customs Union Convention, in which he states that bonds have been taken in Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, and the Transvaal, from the 5th June for the difference of duties in the principal articles affected.

As regards Bechnanaland Protectorate and Basutoland, the High Commissioner is advised that no such action is necessary, as importation into those Territories are practically controlled by surrounding Colonies, who collect the duty in the first instance, and who are levying increased duties by means of the taking of bonds.

A Proclamation, it is stated, will be issued in due course, including Bechuanaland Protectorate and Basutoland in the Customs Union, as from the date on which the Convention comes into operation.

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### NATAL.

A copy of the "Natal Government Gazette" for 12th May, 1903, has been received by the Board of Trade, containing a Proclamation (No. 63 of 1903), dated 11th May last, prohibiting the importation, directly or indirectly, of live cattle, sheep, goats or pigs from Argentina into the Colony of Natal, in consequence of the existence of foot and mouth disease in Cape Colony among cattle imported from that country.

Vessels arriving at the outer anchorage of the port of Durban from Argentina may not enter the harbour until an examination has taken place by the District Veterinary Surgeon, who may, if he sees fit, allow cargoes of healthy cattle, sheep, goats or pigs to be slaughtered at the outer anchorage, and their carcases landed.

Healthy cattle already shipped for Natal may be allowed to land in the Colony, subject to quarantine at such place, and for such time as the District Veterinary Surgeon at the port may direct.



### *Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.*

#### NATAL—continued.

A Notice issued by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon at Pietermaritzburg on the 8th May last has also been received, prohibiting the importation of hay, lucerne, and forage from Argentina into Natal unless accompanied by a certificate signed by the British Consul at the port from which the articles are shipped that the same have come from a district of Argentina in which foot-and-mouth disease does not exist.

#### MALAY PROTECTED STATES—SELANGOR.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, a copy of the "Selangor Government Gazette" for 6th February, 1903, containing a Notification (No. 61 of 1903) issued by the Acting-Resident of Selangor, and which came into force on 15th February last.

The present Notification cancels certain previous Customs Notifications; while it at the same time consolidates the Tariff by reimposing the various duties in force on goods imported into and exported from Selangor.

The Tariff now received is the same as that published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 3rd May, 1900, as amended in the "Journal" of 29th November, 1900, with the following exceptions:—

| Articles.                                                                                                                                                                       | Present Rates. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>IMPORT DUTIES.</b>                                                                                                                                                           |                |
| Opium—                                                                                                                                                                          |                |
| Indian ... .. Per chest containing 40 balls                                                                                                                                     | \$ 480         |
| Other than Indian ... .. " " or packet, weighing 120 katis (160 lbs.)                                                                                                           | \$ 480         |
| [For regulations as to the importation of opium see the "Opium Enactment, 1903," below.]                                                                                        |                |
| <b>EXPORT DUTIES.</b>                                                                                                                                                           |                |
| Gutta-percha, and leaves and bark, and any other part of all gutta-percha producing trees belonging to any species of <i>Dicapsis</i> (Palaquium) or Payena, commonly known as— |                |
| Getah Taban Merah: ... ..                                                                                                                                                       |                |
| " Sutra ... ..                                                                                                                                                                  |                |
| " Baik ... ..                                                                                                                                                                   |                |
| " Puteh ... ..                                                                                                                                                                  |                |
| " Chaier ... ..                                                                                                                                                                 |                |
| " Sundek ... ..                                                                                                                                                                 |                |
| " Sempor ... ..                                                                                                                                                                 |                |
| } 80 % <i>ad val.</i>                                                                                                                                                           |                |



*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***MALAY PROTECTED STATES—SELANGOR—continued.**

| Articles.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Present Rates.      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Any gutta-percha or any such leaves, bark or other part as aforesaid which are obtained from trees growing on <i>alienated</i> land, the holder whereof shall have cultivated such trees to the satisfaction of the Resident ... .. | 2½ % <i>ad val.</i> |
| Jungle produce exported to any other State of the Federation for <i>bona fide</i> use or consumption therein ... ..                                                                                                                 | Free.               |
| [NOTE.—Other jungle produce remains, as before, 10 % <i>ad valorem</i> .]                                                                                                                                                           |                     |
| Weighing fee on tin ... .. Per picul (133½ lbs.)                                                                                                                                                                                    | 4 cents.            |
| Wolfram ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | \$ 1                |
| [Subject to rebate of the amount of "any difference between the duty so paid on any wolfram and 8 % of the actual price realised by sale thereof in the Colony.]                                                                    |                     |

The Tariff further provides that the duty on "Dry Cherry" is calculated on one-third of the gross weight, whilst that on "Parchment Coffee" is calculated, as before, on two-thirds of the gross weight.

The above copy of the "Selangor Government Gazette," viz., that for February 6th last, contains "The Opium Enactment, 1903." (No. 1 of 1903) which provides for the regulation of the importation and exportation of opium into and from Selangor.

The present enactment, which repeals the Opium Duties Enactment of 1899, will come into force on a date to be fixed by the Resident by notification in the "Gazette," and it enacts, *inter alia*, that:

All opium imported into the State must be accompanied by a written permit to export.

No opium, other than opium grown in India and manufactured or purchased by the Government of India, and commonly known as Benares, Malwa or Patna opium, is to be imported by any person who has not previously obtained a license from the Resident. No chandu or other cooked preparation of opium may be imported into the State.

[NOTE.—The above provisions are not applicable to opium or chandu imported for medical purposes.]

A copy of the rules made under section 6 of the enactment has also been received by the Board, and these provide that:

Indian opium must not be imported in any smaller quantity than one chest of 40 balls.

Licenses to import opium, other than that grown in India and manufactured or purchased by the Government of India, and commonly known as Benares, Malwa or Patna opium, may be issued



### *Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.*

by the Resident upon payment of a fee of 50 dols. per annum, or a proportionately less sum for any part of a year.

Such opium must not be imported in any smaller quantity than one chest or packet weighing not less than 120 katis.

#### BARBADOS.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, a copy of an Act (No. 29 of 1903) which was assented to by the Governor of Barbados on 13th March last, and which continues various expiring Laws of the Colony to the 31st March, 1904.

The Acts continued in force for another year include those relating to the imposition of duties on goods imported into Barbados (viz., Acts Nos. 2 of 1901, 15 of 1902, 34 of 1902, and 38 of 1902), and of which notices appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 2nd May, 1901, and 15th January, 1902.

#### ST. CHRISTOPHER NEVIS.

The Board of Trade have received from the Colonial Office a copy of the "Sugar Taxes Suspension Ordinance, 1902" (No. 7 of 1902), which was assented to by the Acting-Governor of St. Christopher Nevis on 26th September, 1902, and which has been passed for the purpose of relieving the sugar industry by the temporary suspension of the following taxes hitherto in force in the Presidency:

- (1) The export duties on sugar and rum imposed by Ordinance No. 1 of 1898, from 1st January, 1902, to 30th September, 1903.
- (2) The wharfage rates on packages or vessels of all descriptions containing sugar, rum or molasses, and exported from the Presidency imposed by Ordinance No. 5 of 1900, from 1st January, 1902, to 30th September, 1903.
- (3) The land tax payable in respect of cultivated land under Ordinance No. 9 of 1901, for two years from 1st January, 1902.

The Ordinance provides for a refund of any duties, rates, or taxes that may have been paid for the year 1902, prior to its coming into operation.

A copy of a further Ordinance (No. 10 of 1902) has been received, which provides for the imposition, to the 31st December, 1903, (1) of the *additional* duties on goods imported under Ordinance No. 5 of 1896, and (2) the duties on sugar and rum exported from the Presidency under Ordinance No. 1 of 1898.



*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***ST. CHRISTOPHER NEVIS**—*continued.*

It will, however, be seen from the previous Notice under Ordinance No. 7 of 1902, that these export duties are at present *temporarily* suspended to the 30th September, 1903.

NOTE.—The additional import duties imposed under Ordinance No. 5 of 1896, and the export duties under Ordinance No. 1 of 1898, were published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 13th March, 1902.

A copy of an Ordinance (No. 11 of 1902) has been received, through the Colonial Office, continuing, until the 31st December, 1903, the "Rum Duty Ordinance, No. 6 of 1896," by which an additional duty of 20 per cent. was imposed on the duty of 3s. per proof gallon leviable upon rum manufactured in the Presidency of St. Christopher Nevis.

**EGYPT.**

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 594 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 24th December last, relating to an Egyptian Valuation Tariff\* for use in assessing Customs duties on imported metals and metal manufactures, the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 6th June contains the subjoined new Valuation Tariff for these articles.

The new tariff was to come into force on the 1st June, and will remain in operation until the 30th November, 1903:—

| Articles.                                            | Valuation per Kilog.† |                |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
|                                                      | Former.               | New.           |
|                                                      | ‡ Millièmes.          | ‡ Millièmes.   |
| Copper and brass sheets, round and bottoms ... ..    | 65                    | 68             |
| " sheets, plain ... ..                               | 62                    | 65             |
| " " in rolls; bars, round and flat ... ..            | 62                    | 65             |
| " ingots ... ..                                      | 59                    | 62             |
| " wire... ..                                         | <i>ad val.</i>        | <i>ad val.</i> |
| Brass wire ... ..                                    | "                     | "              |
| " sheets, plain, 24 by 48, weighing from 5 to 8 lbs. | "                     | "              |
| Tin, ingots and bars ... ..                          | 112                   | 128            |

\* For particulars as to the nature of these Egyptian Valuation Tariffs, and as to the conditions under which they remain in force, see the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 19th March, pp. 589-90.

† Import duty is charged on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent.

‡ Millième =  $\frac{1}{1000}$  part of the Egyptian £, which = about 11. Os. 6d.



*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***EGYPT—continued.**

| Articles.                                                                                          | Valuation per Kilog. |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
|                                                                                                    | Former.              | New.       |
|                                                                                                    | Millièmes.           | Millièmes. |
| Lead, sheet ... ..                                                                                 | 12½                  | 13½        |
| " shot ... ..                                                                                      | 14                   | 14½        |
| " pipe ... ..                                                                                      | 13                   | 13½        |
| " pig ... ..                                                                                       | 12                   | 12½        |
| Zinc, sheet ... ..                                                                                 | 21½                  | 23½        |
| " ingots ... ..                                                                                    | 21½                  | 22½        |
| Iron and steel plates, ordinary, without mark, ½-inch thick and upwards, English ... ..            | 6                    | 6          |
| Iron and steel plates, ordinary, without mark, ¾-inch thick and upwards, Belgian and German ... .. | 5.½                  | 5½         |
| Iron and steel bars, angles, and tees, without mark, English ... ..                                | 5½                   | 5½         |
| Iron and steel bars, angles, and tees, without mark, Belgian and German ... ..                     | 5½                   | 5½         |
| Iron bars, Swedish ... ..                                                                          | 10                   | 10         |
| " pig ... ..                                                                                       | 3.½                  | 3½         |
| " hoops ... ..                                                                                     | 6½                   | 6½         |
| " " with holes ... ..                                                                              | 7                    | 7          |
| Steel hoops ... ..                                                                                 | 6½                   | 6½         |
| " " with holes ... ..                                                                              | 7½                   | 7½         |
| Galvanised sheets ... ..                                                                           | 13                   | 13         |
| " " corrugated (B.G. 24 and 26) ... ..                                                             | ad val.              | ad val.    |
| Ordinary cast-iron pipes and fittings ... ..                                                       | 25                   | 25         |
| Studs (Benwill's) new ... ..                                                                       | 20                   | 20         |
| " old ... ..                                                                                       | 24                   | 24         |
| " small ... ..                                                                                     | 8½                   | 8½         |
| Nails (French), iron, from France, Belgium, Germany, or America (15 by 35 to 24 by 200) ... ..     | 5½                   | 5½         |
| Iron or steel girders from England ... ..                                                          | 4.½                  | 4.½        |
| " " Belgium or Germany ... ..                                                                      | 100                  | 100        |
| Phosphor bronze ... ..                                                                             | 40                   | 40         |
| Antimony ... ..                                                                                    | 270                  | 270        |
| Quicksilver ... ..                                                                                 |                      |            |

**PORTUGAL.**

The Portuguese "Diario do Governo," for the 25th May contains a Decree which fixes the standard of gold and silver rims of eyeglasses and spectacles allowed to be imported into Portugal, and provides for the marking of them and the payment of certain fees in connection therewith.

The Decree may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.



*Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.***PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.**

The Foreign Office have informed the Board of Trade that a telegram has been received from H.M. Acting Consul at Lourenço Marques to the effect that the authorities of Portuguese East Africa provisionally abolished the transit duty on goods passing in transit to the Transvaal on the 30th April last.

**Provisional  
Abolition of  
Transit Duty  
on Goods for the  
Transvaal.**

**ROUMANIA.**

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the Roumanian Customs Regulations with regard to the size of patterns which may be imported into Roumania free of duty, have been modified by a circular of the Roumanian Minister of Finance of the 14th March last, which contains the following provisions:—

**Customs  
Treatment of  
Patterns.**

Pieces of tissue of all kinds, labelled, fastened together on one side, pasted on cards and even arranged in cardboard covers, will be regarded as patterns, and therefore exempted from the payment of import duty, provided that the length of the sides of such pieces does not exceed 20 cmm. (centimetres) in the case of patterns of tissues of silk pure or mixed, and 25 cmm. in the case of other tissues. Permission will be granted to reduce patterns of larger size to the above mentioned dimensions.

Patterns of carpets and waggon covers may be imported in strips not exceeding 40 or 50 cmm. in length, provided that they are partly divided before clearance through the Customs.

Pieces of tissue, of carpet, or of waggon-covers, unlabelled, even if they attain the dimensions given above, or labelled, but imported in quantities indicating that they are not intended as samples for the purpose of obtaining orders, will pay duty as tissues, carpet, or covers, according to their nature.

Samples of yarn of all kinds of textile materials not exceeding 25 cmm. in length, will be treated in the same manner, provided they are attached to cards or to the pages of an album; with regard, however, to samples of embroidery, lace or passementerie, which might be employed as trimming, and which, in any case, are of trivial value, exemption from the payment of import duty will be granted only to those of which the sides do not exceed 10 cmm. in length in the case of silk, pure or mixed, and 15 cmm. in the case of other textiles, and provided that there is only one pattern of each kind, and that samples are attached to cards or are comprised in albums. Detached patterns will pay duty according to their nature.



### *Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.*

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The following is the substance of some Decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington for the guidance of United States Customs Officers and others:—

##### **Customs Decisions.**

*Plaster of Paris statuettes* are dutiable at the rate of 35 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 450 of the Tariff.

*Japanese sake*, a beverage made from rice by processes similar to those employed in making beer, but which in alcoholic strength, quality, general appearance, and somewhat in taste, as well as other physical characteristics, resembles wine, is dutiable by similitude at the rate imposed upon "still wines" by paragraph 296 of the Tariff, and is not dutiable, either directly or by similitude, as beer or as malt extract, or as an unenumerated manufactured article.

*Cost of warping*.—The cost of the "warping" of silk yarns forming one of the component materials of silk and cotton fabrics, should not be added to the value of the silk yarns alone in determining, for Tariff purposes, the component material of chief value of such fabrics, but should be equally apportioned between the silk and cotton.

*Stoneware, decorated and common*.—Stoneware crockery covered with a transparent glaze is dutiable at the rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem* as plain, embossed, or salt-glazed common stoneware under paragraph 94 of the Tariff, and not as decorated or ornamented stoneware. When covered with a single coloured glaze, presenting a solid colour, such merchandise is not decorated nor plain, and is dutiable at the rate of 55 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 96 of the Tariff. When covered with glazes of different colours, or ornamented with variously coloured designs, such merchandise is dutiable at the rate of 60 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 96.

*Coated paper fluorescent screens*, a class of articles made from coated paper, mounted on wooden frames, with cotton backing, being in chief value of paper, are dutiable at the rate of 35 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 407 of the Tariff.

An article composed in chief value of surface-coated paper is dutiable as a manufacture of paper unless otherwise specially provided for, and even though the coating of the paper be of more value than the basic paper itself. The surface-coated paper must be considered as the component element, and not the chemical which is used to coat the paper.

*Perforated paper* is not dutiable as a manufacture of paper. Such merchandise, although subjected to a species of manufacture after leaving the paper mill, is still paper, not having its name, character, or use changed by such process, and is dutiable at the rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 402 of the Tariff as paper not otherwise provided for.



## SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

### CAPE COLONY.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 15th May contains a notification to the effect that the following Regulations framed by the Table Bay Harbour Board have been approved, viz. :—

#### HOURS FOR DELIVERY OF CARGO (SECTION VII., CLAUSE XIX.) TIMBER, COAL AND GRAIN.

|                                        |                     |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>May to August</i> —Saturdays ... .. | 7.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. |
| Other working days ... ..              | 7.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| <i>Sept. to April</i> —Saturday ... .. | 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.    |
| Other working days ... ..              | 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.    |

#### OTHER CARGO.

|                                             |                  |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>All the Year Round</i> —Saturdays ... .. | 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. |
| Other working days ... ..                   | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. |

#### WEIGHTS OF HEAVY PACKAGES AND WEIGHTS GIVEN ON WARRANTS.

##### (SECTION VII., CLAUSE X.)

Freight notes and invoices must be always available and produced to the General Manager, or an officer duly authorised by him, when required.

Further, all packages exceeding 2,000 lbs. in dead weight must have the actual weight legibly painted on the outside of the package, in close proximity to the shipping mark. Should this order not be complied with, the package will be weighed by the Board, and all expenses of weighing, extra lifting, cartage to and from the weighbridge, &c., will be charged to the importer, and shall be recoverable as the penalty provided for the breach of this regulation.

### GERMANY—AUSTRIA—HUNGARY.

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the 28th May/10th June quotes a statement to the effect that an arrangement has been concluded between the German and Austro-Hungarian Governments for connecting the Elbe and the Dneister, so as to open up river communication between the Baltic and the Black Sea.

The new system of canals will be available for use by traffic from Warsaw, Hamburg, Lubeck, Stettin and Vienna.



## MINERALS, METALS, AND MACHINERY.

### UNITED KINGDOM.

A formal investigation was held at Chirnside on the 6th and 8th June, into the circumstances attending the explosion of a boiler which occurred on the 27th April last, at the premises of Messrs. George Steel & Sons, engineers and millwrights, Chirnside.

The Court found that the explosion was due to the wasting of the bottom plates of the boiler by corrosion until they had become so thin as to be unable to resist the working pressure. The owners, Messrs. George Steel & Sons, were found to blame, and were ordered to pay the sum of 20*l.* towards the cost of the investigation.

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### NORTH AMERICA.

According to an advance abstract of the annual report of the Geological Survey upon the production of graphite in the United States in 1902, published in the "Iron Age" (New York) of 28th May, the production of crystalline graphite in that country during 1902 amounted to 4,176,824 lbs., valued at 153,147 dols., as compared with 3,967,612 lbs., valued at 135,914 dols. in 1901. The greater part of the product was derived from the mines at Ticonderoga, N. Y., although the mines at Chester Springs, Chester County, Pa., and at Stockdale, Clay County, Ala., contributed to the output.

The production of amorphous graphite in the United States during 1902 was 1,209 short tons (of 2,000 lbs.), valued at 19,764 dols., as compared with 809 short tons, valued at 31,800 dols. in 1901. The decline in unit value was due to the increased proportion of products of lower grades. Under this head are included the so-called graphite anthracite of Rhode Island, which is of a structure between scaly and granular, and contains in selected samples as much as 52 per cent. carbon, and the so-called Baraga graphite of Michigan, which in reality is a carbonaceous schist.

The imports of graphite into the United States during the year 1902 amounted to 18,201 long tons (of 2,240 lbs.) valued at 1,168,554 dols. This product was all imported in unmanufactured form.

The manufacture of artificial graphite in the United States has assumed a very prominent position in the graphite industry in recent years, the production in 1902 amounting to 2,358,828 lbs., as compared with 2,500,000 in 1901 and 860,750 lbs. in 1900. The production of both the crystalline and amorphous variety has been steadily developed.



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*Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.*

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In the same report it is stated that graphite occurs in Canada both as amorphous and as crystalline, the former grade being found chiefly in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where it occurs as graphitic shale or clay, and the latter variety occurring notably in Ottawa and Argenteuil counties, Quebec, and in similar deposits in Lanark, Leeds and Frontenac counties, Ontario. The most important of the amorphous deposits are in the vicinity of St. Johns, New Brunswick, although other deposits of lesser note are located in Kings and Westmoreland counties, New Brunswick, and at the Lochaber mine, Nova Scotia. Amorphous deposits have also been found in Haliburton and Hastings counties, Ontario, and in Renfrew County, Brougham Township, is a very extensive deposit of this character, which carries also considerable crystalline graphite. The Ontario Graphite Company worked this last-named deposit during 1902. The value of the output in Ontario during 1902 amounted to 17,868 dols. The production of graphite in Canada during 1902 amounted to 1,995 short tons (of 2,000 lbs.), valued at 28,300 dols., as compared with 2,005 short tons, valued at 38,780 dols., in 1901.

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**NICARAGUA.**

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A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M.

**Mining  
Concession.**

Minister Resident at Guatemala, transmitting a report from H.M. Consul at Greytown to the effect that the Government of Nicaragua

have granted to a native of the United States of America the sole right to exploit, for the term of 25 years, all gold, silver, copper, coal, coal-oil, precious stones, and any class of metal, whether by mines or placers in the district of Nuevo Segovia, Jinotega, and Cape Gracias à Dios, west of longitude 84° or, roughly speaking, an extent of land equal to about one-sixth of the whole Republic of Nicaragua.

The contractor is also permitted to introduce free of duties all machinery, tools, quicksilver, lubricating oils, gunpowder and dynamite, &c., required for the working of the mines or placers, together with provisions and clothing for the workmen.

In consideration of this monopoly, he will pay to the Government of Nicaragua 12 per cent. of the net profits of the undertaking, and has paid in advance, on account of such profits, 100,000 dols. United States gold.

The Consul finds it extremely difficult to say what may be the value of this concession, but it does not seem possible to him that any one company could develop all the mines over such an extensive territory, and probably the concessionaire will permit the exploitation of mines and placers by private individuals in his district on terms that may be mutually agreed on.

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## YARNS AND TEXTILES.

### BRITISH INDIA (a).

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the monthly return issued by the Indian Government, showing the quantity of cotton yarn spun, and of cotton woven goods produced during February, 1901, 1902, and 1903, and the eleven months ended February of those years, in each province of British India, and the Native States.

The following summarised statement, extracted from the above return, gives particulars for the eleven months ended February, 1901, 1902, and 1903 :—

|                                                 |           | Eleven Months ended February. |             |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                 |           | 1901.                         | 1902.       | 1903 (a).   |
| <b>BRITISH INDIA, BERAR, AND NATIVE STATES.</b> |           |                               |             |             |
| Cotton yarn spun ... ..                         | Lbs.      | 814,107,154                   | 526,477,379 | 527,880,020 |
| Cotton woven goods produced :—                  |           |                               |             |             |
| Grey goods ... ..                               | { = Yards | 75,987,652                    | 91,905,396  | 91,058,901  |
| White and coloured goods                        | Lbs.      | 313,532,173                   | 378,061,226 | 370,533,221 |
| Hosiery ... ..                                  | "         | 14,946,491                    | 18,209,410  | 21,267,707  |
|                                                 |           | 368,786                       | 441,684     | 444,006     |

(a) But inclusive of Pondicherry from January, 1903.

According to the "Pioneer Mail" (Allahabad) of the 15th May, the Travancore Government has just published the results of the experiments they have been making in extracting and weaving vegetable fibres, especially plantain fibre, which, it is said, prove that the plantain fibre industry has a distinctly commercial future before it. Of the 29 varieties of plantain growing in Travancore, 12 yield a fibre that can be woven into fabrics of fine texture much resembling silk, and very durable. The fibre extracted from the remaining varieties is eminently fit for coarse weaving. Cordage weaving on ordinary country looms was found difficult, but an improved hand loom was constructed in the School of Arts, which gave much better results. One drawback at first was that the warp threads of the fibre were not satisfactory and cotton warp had to be used; but subsequent experiments will enable this difficulty to be overcome. It is said that Manila hemp makes even a better warp thread than cotton. The experiments are, adds the "Pioneer Mail," to be continued.



## AGRICULTURE.

### UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 18th June were as follow :—

**Corn Prices.**

|        |     |     |     |     |          |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Wheat  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27s. 8d. |
| Barley | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21s. 5d. |
| Oats   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18s. 7d. |

For further particulars see p. 565.

A statement is published on p. 566, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 18th June, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

### RUSSIA.

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the 15/28th May, summarises a report published by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture and Domains on the working of the State forests during 1901.

The gross revenue derived from this source is given as 57,486,900 roubles or six millions sterling, of which 54,546,029 roubles resulted from the sale of forest products, an increase of 384,258 roubles compared with the previous year.

The forest lands under the general forestry administration on 1st January, 1901, covered a total area of 237,927,789 dessiatines (dessiatine = 2·7 acres) consisting of 12,520 different forests, an area which was augmented during the year by 921,960 dessiatines, principally in Asiatic Russia.

On the other hand, forests under the demesial forestry administration showed a total diminution of 256,614 dessiatines, the result of a revision of the forest boundaries.

The net result shows that on the 1st January, 1902, the forest lands placed under the jurisdiction of the general forestry administration amounted in area to 238,593,155 dessiatines consisting of 12,562 forests.

### GERMANY.

According to statistics published in the "Reichsanzeiger," the quantity of raw sugar produced in Germany during the period from 1st August to 31st May last, being the first ten months of the 1902-3 sugar campaign, was 1,499,718 metric tons as compared with 2,013,651 metric tons produced during the corresponding period of the previous sugar campaign. The quantity of refined sugar produced increased from 1,147,526 metric tons during



### *Agriculture.*

the period, August, 1901, to May, 1902, to 1,172,748 metric tons during the period, August, 1902, to May, 1903. The total sugar output in Germany during the period from 1st August, 1902, to 31st May, 1903, reduced to terms of raw sugar, amounted to 1,723,021 metric tons, as compared with 2,252,461 metric tons in the previous campaign.

NOTE.—Metric ton = 1,000 kilogs. = 2,204 lbs. avoirdupois.

### TURKEY.

A report dated 11th May has been received at the Foreign Office, from the British Vice-Consul at Adana, in which it is stated that the cereal crops of that district are very good this year. Barley is now (11th May) on the market and wheat was to be harvested in a couple of weeks. Linseed and castor-oil seed are also worthy of attention there.

The Vice-Consul adds that the cotton crop is just above ground, and should timely rain fall, will also give an abundant yield.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### UNITED KINGDOM.

A report published in the "Labour Gazette" of the 15th June, based on 3,318 returns, viz.: 2,055 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,176 from Workmen and Trade Unions, and 87 from other sources, states that employment in May showed little change on the whole as compared with April. In the engineering trade, however, there was some improvement, while the cotton industry shows a marked decline. As compared with a year ago employment continues to show some falling-off.

In the 226 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 554,524, making returns, 22,102 (or 4·0 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 4·1 per cent. in April, and 4·0 per cent. in the 224 Trade Unions, with a membership of 549,023, from which returns were received for May, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of May during the past decade was 3·9.

\* For principal contents of the "Labour Gazette," see p. 378.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 11th June was 20,885 and the number imported during the 24 weeks ended the 11th June was 2,078,822.

As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 11th June, 8,772 bales, and for the 24 weeks, 226,640.

For further details see p. 565.



*Miscellaneous.***UNITED KINGDOM—continued.**

The values of the total quantity of fish returned as landed on the coasts of the British Isles during the month of May, 1903, were as follow:—

|                                 | £       |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| English and Welsh Coasts ... .. | 523,339 |
| Scotch Coasts ... ..            | 172,760 |
| Irish Coasts ... ..             | 62,970  |

Detailed statistics showing the kinds of fish landed, and giving particulars for the five months ended May, will be found for England and Wales on p. 567, for Scotland on p. 568, and for Ireland on p. 569.

**BRITISH INDIA.**

The following particulars concerning paper mills in India have been received at the Board of Trade through the India Office:—There are eight paper mills in operation—three in the Bombay Presidency, four in Bengal, and one at Lucknow. Of the eight, two are private concerns in the Bombay Presidency. The capital invested, so far as information is obtainable, amounts to Rs. 73,20,000. Most of the white and blue foolscap and much of the blotting paper, notepaper, and envelopes used in the Government offices is now obtained from the Indian mills. The total quantity of paper made in 1902 was nearly 47 million lbs., and its reported value Rs. 64,38,319. The mills employ 4,865 persons. The capital employed has been trebled in 20 years, since 1883, and the production and number of persons employed have increased about six-fold. But in recent years there has been a depression in the paper-making industry in Bengal, owing to the importation in large quantities of cheap paper made from wood pulp, which is of more attractive appearance, if less durable, than paper made from grass, gunnies, and rags in the Bengal mills.

The following table shows the progress of paper mills in India during the last five years:—

|      |     |     |     | Number of Mills at Work. | Capital employed (as far as known). | Daily Average Number of Persons employed. | Production. |           |
|------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
|      |     |     |     |                          |                                     |                                           | Quantity.   | Value.    |
|      |     |     |     |                          | Rs.                                 |                                           | Lbs.        | Rs.       |
| 1898 | ... | ... | ... | 8                        | 62,72,000                           | 4,187                                     | 42,181,500  | 61,06,459 |
| 1899 | ... | ... | ... | 8                        | 67,72,000                           | 4,436                                     | 44,428,440  | 62,40,905 |
| 1900 | ... | ... | ... | 8                        | 70,22,000                           | 4,871                                     | 45,940,591  | 62,51,748 |
| 1901 | ... | ... | ... | 9                        | 73,20,000                           | 4,978                                     | 46,713,125  | 65,83,724 |
| 1902 | ... | ... | ... | 8                        | 73,20,000                           | 4,865                                     | 46,654,883  | 64,38,319 |



*Miscellaneous.***TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE RIVER COLONY.**

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, copies of memoranda transmitted by Lord Milner, giving full information as to the procedure to be followed by insurance companies desirous of commencing business in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

These memoranda, together with a translation of the Insurance Law in force in the Transvaal (No. 8 of 1898), and a copy of the Stamps and Licenses Ordinance (No. 10 of 1903) of the Orange River Colony, may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

**FRANCE—SENEGAL.**

The following tables, showing the import and export trade of the French Colony of Senegal in 1902, are based on official statistics published in the "Journal Officiel du Sénégal." Figures for 1901 are added for purposes of comparison:—

**Imports.**

|                                      | 1901.       | 1902.     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
|                                      | £           | £         |
| Piece-goods ... ..                   | 754,000     | 394,000   |
| Food products ... ..                 | 294,000     | 109,000   |
| Colonial produce ... ..              | 197,000     | 124,000   |
| Metal manufactures ... ..            | 187,000     | 233,000   |
| Beverages ... ..                     | 154,000     | 85,000    |
| Fruits and seeds ... ..              | 144,000     | 141,000   |
| Metals and minerals ... ..           | 88,000      | 71,000    |
| Other articles of merchandise ... .. | 350,000     | 278,000   |
| Total merchandise ... ..             | 2,168,000   | 1,435,000 |
| Specie ... ..                        | 461,000     | 277,000   |
| Grand total ... ..                   | £ 2,629,000 | 1,712,000 |

In 1900, the corresponding total was 1,872,000*l*.

**Exports.**

|                                      | 1902.     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                      | £         |
| Fruits and seeds ... ..              | 824,000   |
| Vegetable oils ... ..                | 154,000   |
| Other articles of merchandise ... .. | 11,000    |
| Total merchandise ... ..             | 989,000   |
| Specie ... ..                        | 257,000   |
| Grand total { 1902 .. ..             | 1,246,000 |
| { 1901 .. ..                         | 1,556,000 |
| { 1900 .. ..                         | 1,317,000 |



*Miscellaneous.***SWITZERLAND.**

The "Feuille Fédérale Suisse" (Official) publishes a notice to the following effect:—

**Notice to  
Commercial  
Travellers.**

"We learn that many representatives of foreign firms are travelling in Switzerland canvassing for the insertion of notices in periodicals, directories, &c.

"If the above-mentioned are simply concerned in visiting merchants or manufacturers in order to solicit such insertions, they do not come under the operation of the federal law relating to commercial travellers, and consequently do not need a certificate of identity.

"On the other hand, persons who canvass merchants or manufacturers for orders for commercial almanacks, bulletins, newspapers, etc., must provide themselves with a license."

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

H.M. Consul-General at San Francisco, in his report for 1902, gives the following table as showing the value of San Francisco's Oriental trade in 1901 and 1902:—

| Country.             |     |     |     |     |     | Imports.    | Exports.  |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-----------|
|                      |     |     |     |     |     | £           | £         |
| China and Hong-Kong  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,392,861   | 1,193,304 |
| Japan...             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,801,121   | 812,742   |
| Philippine Islands   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 122,927     | 223,768   |
| Asiatic Russia       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,730       | 42,963    |
| East Indies          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 690,659     | 46,262    |
| Guam...              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | —           | 4,539     |
| Other countries      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,304       | 224       |
| Total ...            |     |     |     |     |     | £ 4,015,602 | 2,323,797 |
| ,, 1901 ...          |     |     |     |     |     | 4,301,405   | 2,085,867 |
| Increase or decrease |     |     |     |     |     | £ - 285,803 | £ 237,930 |

In the same report H.M. Consul-General states that one of the latest industries to be established in the West is that of window glass making. A factory has been opened at Stockton which turns out about 45 tons of glass a week. Stockton was apparently selected as the site of the factory on account of its natural position within easy communication by water with San Francisco, plenty of fuel handy, and a specially good quality of sand being found close at hand in the surrounding districts. The Stockton factory will probably in

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*Miscellaneous.*

the immediate future supply the whole of the glass used on the Pacific slope. To-day it is hardly able to meet all the calls made upon it. The British glass trade has long since been killed and the Belgian is being seriously cut into. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,988.)

**ARGENTINA.**

With reference to the particulars given on pp. 540-1 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 12th March last respecting

**Trade in 1902.** the trade of the Argentine Republic in 1902, the Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres, a series of statistical tables of Argentine trade compiled from official publications showing quantities, values, principal countries of origin and destination, &c., of imports and exports of Argentina during each of the last three years.

These tables may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres also forwards detailed particulars of the trade of Argentina during the first quarter of 1903, with comparative figures for the corresponding period of the preceding year, from which the following table is taken:—

|                 |     |     |     |     |     | January to March. |            |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|------------|
|                 |     |     |     |     |     | 1902.             | 1903.      |
| <b>Imports—</b> |     |     |     |     |     | £                 | £          |
| Dutiable        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,533,559         | 5,383,426  |
| Free            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 983,296           | 1,324,473  |
| Total           |     |     |     |     |     | 5,516,855         | 6,707,899  |
| Specie          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,067             | 1,489,687  |
| Grand total     |     |     |     |     |     | £ 5,517,922       | 8,197,586  |
| <b>Exports—</b> |     |     |     |     |     |                   |            |
| Dutiable        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,762,717         | 6,388,725  |
| Free            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,579,672         | 7,481,514  |
| Total           |     |     |     |     |     | 11,342,389        | 13,870,239 |
| Specie          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 173,331           | 46,936     |
| Grand total     |     |     |     |     |     | £ 11,515,720      | 13,917,175 |

NOTE.—1l. = 5 dollars gold.



*Miscellaneous.***CHINA.**

In his report on the trade of Canton for 1902, H.M. Consul-General at that port states that, expressed in native currency,\* the value of the foreign trade for the years 1891, 1901 and 1902 was as follows:—

|                        | Value.                   |                          |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                        | 1891.                    | 1901.                    | 1902.                    |
| Foreign imports ... .. | Hk. Taels.<br>12,528,075 | Hk. Taels.<br>16,492,112 | Hk. Taels.<br>16,573,606 |
| „ exports ... ..       | 15,395,306               | 20,883,922               | 36,614,264               |
| Total ... ..           | 27,923,381               | 37,376,034               | 53,187,870               |

\* The value of the Haikwan tael averaged 4s. 10d. in 1891; 3s. in 1901, and 2s. 6d. in 1902.

The returns of domestic trade are as under:—

|                       | Value.                   |                          |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                       | 1891.                    | 1901.                    | 1902.                    |
| Native imports ... .. | Hk. Taels.<br>15,730,410 | Hk. Taels.<br>20,716,958 | Hk. Taels.<br>23,748,818 |
| „ exports ... ..      | 2,757,726                | 2,752,418                | 3,792,255                |
| Total ... ..          | 18,488,136               | 23,469,376               | 27,541,073               |

The actual increase in 1902 over 1901 of the total trade coming under the cognisance of the Imperial Maritime Customs is 19,882,533 taels, and may be accounted for by (1) the general tendency to expansion shown during 1901; (2) by the largely increased value of the silk export, which has been in the past greatly under-estimated; and (3) by the additions to the steamer-borne cargo, the result of the transfer of the native customs to the direction of the Imperial Maritime Customs. As regards (2), the corrections made resulted in an increase of the value of this export of some 9,000,000 taels; as regards (3), cassia, matting, oil, fish, and cotton yarn are now being largely shipped by steamer in preference to junk.



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*Miscellaneous.*

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**CHINA—continued.**

With regard to transit passes, H.M. Consul-General states that it is provided by the Tientsin treaty that steamer-

**Transit Passes.** imported foreign goods, irrespective of the nationality of the importer, may, on payment of a half duty, be sent into the interior under a half duty certificate and be exempt from all further taxation *en route*. A similar exemption by means of the transit pass is accorded to native produce, the *bona fide* property of a British subject, intended for steamer export and so declared at a Treaty port. It was hoped that by this arrangement foreign goods would be spared the vexatious delays and exorbitant charges suffered by merchandise which pays likin to the provincial likin authorities for transit in the interior. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,985.*)

In the same report H.M. Consul-General refers to the adoption of steamers instead of native craft carriage as a considerable encouragement to the manufacture of matting. The West River steamers now take large and increasing shipments, with the result that a more rapid and safer delivery of the cargo in Canton is assured.

**Matting  
Manufacture  
and Trade.**

The straw used in the matting manufacture, which is grown in Tung-kun, east of Canton, is now also for the first time being taken by steamer from Canton to Lin-tan and Tak-hing, the manufacturing centres on the West River, free of all duty and likin. This, again, assures a rapid and safe transport, and obviates the risks of losses by piracy and floods, which so greatly hampered the trade when both the raw and manufactured articles were carried in native craft.

Should the low rates of exchange continue, there is every prospect of a large export next season, though prices will probably rule higher, and native merchants will reap the benefit of cheap silver. China's chief competitor in this trade is Japan. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,985.*)

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## STATISTICAL TABLES.

## Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 24 Weeks ended 11th June, 1903.

|                       | Week ended<br>11th June,<br>1903. | 24 Weeks<br>ended<br>11th June,<br>1903. | Week ended<br>11th June,<br>1903. | 24 Weeks<br>ended<br>11th June,<br>1903. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                       | IMPORTS.<br>(Bales.)              |                                          | EXPORTS.<br>(Bales.)              |                                          |
|                       | No.                               | No.                                      | No.                               | No.                                      |
| American ... ..       | 17,199                            | 1,619,998                                | 4,588                             | 118,389                                  |
| Brasilian ... ..      | —                                 | 112,983                                  | 667                               | 22,042                                   |
| East Indian ... ..    | 715                               | 85,271                                   | 1,595                             | 19,960                                   |
| Egyptian ... ..       | 2,880                             | 237,048                                  | 1,967                             | 66,737                                   |
| Miscellaneous: ... .. | 291                               | 23,527                                   | 15                                | 4,512                                    |
| Total ... ..          | 20,885                            | 2,078,822                                | 8,772                             | 226,640                                  |

## Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,\* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 13th June, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

|                                   |  | Average Price. |    |         |    |       |    |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|----|---------|----|-------|----|
|                                   |  | Wheat.         |    | Barley. |    | Oats. |    |
| Week ended 13th June, 1903 ... .. |  | s.             | d. | s.      | d. | s.    | d. |
|                                   |  | 27             | 8  | 21      | 5  | 18    | 7  |
| Corresponding week in—            |  |                |    |         |    |       |    |
| 1896 ... ..                       |  | 25             | 1  | 22      | 8  | 15    | 1  |
| 1897 ... ..                       |  | 27             | 0  | 23      | 9  | 18    | 0  |
| 1898 ... ..                       |  | 42             | 4  | 26      | 1  | 20    | 5  |
| 1899 ... ..                       |  | 25             | 7  | 23      | 1  | 17    | 10 |
| 1900 ... ..                       |  | 25             | 6  | 23      | 8  | 18    | 11 |
| 1901 ... ..                       |  | 27             | 8  | 24      | 0  | 19    | 7  |
| 1902 ... ..                       |  | 30             | 11 | 23      | 8  | 22    | 8  |

\* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.



## Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 13th June, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

|                                           |            | Week ended<br>13th June,<br>1903. | Correspond-<br>ing week<br>in 1902. |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Animals, living :—</b>                 |            |                                   |                                     |
| Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves ...         | Number.    | 13,605                            | 9,850                               |
| Sheep and lambs ...                       | "          | 6,485                             | 5,169                               |
| Swine ...                                 | "          | —                                 | —                                   |
| Horses ...                                | "          | 551                               | 699                                 |
| <b>Fresh meat :—</b>                      |            |                                   |                                     |
| Beef ...                                  | Cwts.      | 87,080                            | 80,624                              |
| Mutton ...                                | "          | 74,542                            | 103,198                             |
| Pork ...                                  | "          | 4,867                             | 5,849                               |
| <b>Salted or preserved meat :—</b>        |            |                                   |                                     |
| Bacon ...                                 | Cwts.      | 91,645                            | 89,001                              |
| Beef ...                                  | "          | 2,505                             | 5,722                               |
| Hams ...                                  | "          | 22,599                            | 27,190                              |
| Pork ...                                  | "          | 8,156                             | 8,650                               |
| Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...   | "          | 11,362                            | 13,143                              |
| Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting | "          | 8,302                             | 27,440                              |
| <b>Dairy produce and substitutes :—</b>   |            |                                   |                                     |
| Butter ...                                | Cwts.      | 85,066                            | 79,671                              |
| Margarine ...                             | "          | 14,284                            | 15,146                              |
| Cheese ...                                | "          | 63,216                            | 46,330                              |
| Milk, fresh, in cans or drums ...         | "          | 3                                 | —                                   |
| " cream ...                               | "          | 158                               | 116                                 |
| " condensed ...                           | "          | 16,657                            | 18,335                              |
| " preserved, other kinds ...              | "          | 8                                 | 61                                  |
| Eggs ...                                  | Grt. Hndr. | 495,876                           | 427,535                             |
| Poultry and game ...                      | Value £    | 8,548                             | 9,476                               |
| Rabbits, dead (not tinned) ...            | Cwts.      | 2,027                             | 4,833                               |
| Lard ...                                  | "          | 85,233                            | 83,598                              |
| <b>Corn, grain, meal and flour :—</b>     |            |                                   |                                     |
| Wheat ...                                 | Cwts.      | 1,994,218                         | 1,989,551                           |
| Wheat-meal and flour ...                  | "          | 406,832                           | 383,718                             |
| Barley ...                                | "          | 143,752                           | 169,795                             |
| Oats ...                                  | "          | 355,735                           | 417,814                             |
| Peas ...                                  | "          | 21,869                            | 36,327                              |
| Beans ...                                 | "          | 5,175                             | 36,249                              |
| Maize or Indian corn ...                  | "          | 769,386                           | 813,030                             |
| <b>Fruit, raw :—</b>                      |            |                                   |                                     |
| Apples ...                                | Cwts.      | 887                               | 4,987                               |
| Apricots and peaches ...                  | "          | 201                               | 523                                 |
| Bananas ...                               | Bunches.   | 114,224                           | 78,867                              |
| Cherries ...                              | Cwts.      | 9,867                             | 18,585                              |
| Currants ...                              | "          | 6                                 | 45                                  |
| Gooseberries ...                          | "          | 2,010                             | 1,194                               |
| Grapes ...                                | "          | 456                               | 232                                 |
| Lemons ...                                | "          | 34,068                            | 24,758                              |
| Oranges ...                               | "          | 85,868                            | 81,461                              |
| Pears ...                                 | "          | 57                                | —                                   |
| Plums ...                                 | "          | —                                 | —                                   |
| Strawberries ...                          | "          | 6,968                             | 4,085                               |
| Unenumerated ...                          | "          | 1,649                             | 1,213                               |
| Hay ...                                   | Tons.      | 3,296                             | 10,543                              |
| Straw ...                                 | "          | 1,715                             | 1,464                               |
| Hops ...                                  | Cwts.      | 1,523                             | 407                                 |
| Locust beans ...                          | "          | 10,140                            | 17,298                              |
| <b>Vegetables, raw :—</b>                 |            |                                   |                                     |
| Onions ...                                | Bushels.   | 150,864                           | 29,746                              |
| Potatoes ...                              | Cwts.      | 325,030                           | 378,497                             |
| Tomatoes ...                              | "          | 87,066                            | 41,588                              |
| Unenumerated ...                          | Value £    | 10,599                            | 11,541                              |
| <b>Vegetables, dried</b>                  | Cwts.      | 1,005                             | 1,283                               |
| Preserved by canning ...                  | "          | 2,506                             | 2,902                               |



## Fishery Statistics.—England and Wales.

TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of FISH landed in the Month and Five Months ended 31st May, 1903, and the corresponding periods of the previous Year.

|                                                             | May.      |           | Five Months ended |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------------|
|                                                             | 1903.     | 1902.     | 1903.             | 1902.      |
| QUANTITY.                                                   |           |           |                   |            |
|                                                             | Cwts.     | Cwts.     | Cwts.             | Cwts.      |
| Brill ... ..                                                | 3,012     | 2,148     | 10,823            | 9,380      |
| Soles ... ..                                                | 6,978     | 6,121     | 28,074            | 31,723     |
| Sparling ... ..                                             | —         | —         | —                 | —          |
| Turbot ... ..                                               | 5,249     | 4,443     | 23,312            | 21,072     |
| Prime fish not separately distinguished ... ..              | —         | 797       | 2,006             | 4,837      |
| Total prime fish ... ..                                     | 15,239    | 13,609    | 64,215            | 67,012     |
| Catfish ... ..                                              | 4,512     | —         | 15,245            | —          |
| Ood ... ..                                                  | 126,849   | 113,643   | 654,335           | 495,577    |
| Conger Eels ... ..                                          | 4,167     | 3,307     | 16,801            | 19,576     |
| Dabs ... ..                                                 | 9,607     | 8,166     | 43,941            | 35,224     |
| Gurnards ... ..                                             | 9,473     | 9,076     | 34,985            | 47,667     |
| Haddock ... ..                                              | 243,421   | 196,937   | 967,044           | 823,393    |
| Hake ... ..                                                 | 56,271    | 44,401    | 110,745           | 98,790     |
| Halibut ... ..                                              | 12,593    | 16,058    | 31,243            | 44,448     |
| Herrings ... ..                                             | 15,839    | 26,808    | 59,585            | 67,796     |
| Lemon Soles ... ..                                          | 5,801     | 4,079     | 17,150            | 16,963     |
| Ling ... ..                                                 | 13,123    | 10,326    | 53,887            | 52,734     |
| Mackerel ... ..                                             | 156,686   | 173,663   | 241,649           | 287,393    |
| Megrims ... ..                                              | 5,202     | —         | 12,003            | —          |
| Monks (or Anglers) ... ..                                   | 2,693     | —         | 13,765            | —          |
| Pilchards ... ..                                            | 4         | —         | 1,314             | 1,862      |
| Plaice ... ..                                               | 115,639   | 147,178   | 382,686           | 566,065    |
| Skates and Rays ... ..                                      | 28,246    | 20,631    | 131,920           | 119,857    |
| Sprats ... ..                                               | —         | —         | 35,178            | 13,848     |
| Torsk ... ..                                                | 453       | —         | 3,868             | —          |
| Whiting ... ..                                              | 15,096    | 15,346    | 103,781           | 100,841    |
| Witches ... ..                                              | 4,089     | —         | 13,823            | —          |
| Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ... .. | 34,550    | 39,402    | 165,448           | 240,726    |
| Total ... ..                                                | 879,552   | 842,119   | 3,174,341         | 3,068,123  |
| Shell fish:—                                                | No.       | No.       | No.               | No.        |
| Crabs ... ..                                                | 1,221,432 | 1,470,164 | 3,163,036         | 3,270,896  |
| Lobsters ... ..                                             | 105,117   | 74,315    | 190,853           | 161,036    |
| Oysters ... ..                                              | 1,987,000 | 2,671,000 | 10,718,000        | 13,059,000 |
| Other shell fish ... ..                                     | Cwts.     | Cwts.     | Cwts.             | Cwts.      |
|                                                             | 25,966    | 24,245    | 132,110           | 164,663    |
| VALUE.                                                      |           |           |                   |            |
|                                                             | £         | £         | £                 | £          |
| Brill ... ..                                                | 6,519     | 6,117     | 28,744            | 27,137     |
| Soles ... ..                                                | 36,893    | 38,308    | 186,976           | 236,365    |
| Sparling ... ..                                             | —         | —         | —                 | —          |
| Turbot ... ..                                               | 17,722    | 16,270    | 98,631            | 95,712     |
| Prime fish not separately distinguished ... ..              | —         | 1,566     | 4,282             | 13,177     |
| Total prime fish ... ..                                     | 61,134    | 61,276    | 318,633           | 371,394    |
| Catfish ... ..                                              | 1,464     | —         | 6,860             | —          |
| Ood ... ..                                                  | 53,091    | 53,895    | 410,644           | 292,395    |
| Conger Eels ... ..                                          | 3,113     | 2,566     | 14,360            | 16,829     |
| Dabs ... ..                                                 | 4,311     | 3,581     | 27,553            | 19,374     |
| Gurnards ... ..                                             | 2,987     | 3,055     | 12,016            | 16,583     |
| Haddock ... ..                                              | 93,513    | 100,341   | 643,329           | 684,387    |
| Hake ... ..                                                 | 27,559    | 28,632    | 84,354            | 81,408     |
| Halibut ... ..                                              | 20,191    | 29,054    | 85,489            | 105,841    |
| Herrings ... ..                                             | 6,768     | 9,645     | 19,090            | 22,046     |
| Lemon Soles ... ..                                          | 9,789     | 8,366     | 43,336            | 42,307     |
| Ling ... ..                                                 | 6,409     | 5,112     | 35,063            | 33,622     |
| Mackerel ... ..                                             | 95,929    | 111,518   | 183,932           | 199,646    |
| Megrims ... ..                                              | 2,269     | —         | 6,494             | —          |
| Monks (or Anglers) ... ..                                   | 963       | —         | 5,218             | —          |
| Pilchards ... ..                                            | 5         | —         | 336               | 351        |
| Plaice ... ..                                               | 65,800    | 79,459    | 341,414           | 457,297    |
| Skates and Rays ... ..                                      | 12,780    | 9,316     | 75,929            | 59,969     |
| Sprats ... ..                                               | —         | —         | 5,162             | 3,490      |
| Torsk ... ..                                                | 163       | —         | 2,427             | —          |
| Whiting ... ..                                              | 5,931     | 7,239     | 49,938            | 50,570     |
| Witches ... ..                                              | 3,028     | —         | 15,932            | —          |
| Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ... .. | 17,483    | 21,587    | 90,631            | 143,483    |
| Total ... ..                                                | 493,627   | 534,761   | 2,480,420         | 2,545,690  |
| Shell fish:—                                                |           |           |                   |            |
| Crabs ... ..                                                | 10,542    | 13,170    | 28,570            | 30,564     |
| Lobsters ... ..                                             | 4,579     | 3,399     | 9,217             | 7,393      |
| Oysters ... ..                                              | 4,295     | 6,184     | 33,530            | 37,391     |
| Other shell fish ... ..                                     | 10,296    | 8,909     | 38,131            | 40,747     |
| Total ... ..                                                | 29,712    | 31,662    | 109,448           | 116,095    |
| Total value of fish landed ... ..                           | 523,339   | 566,423   | 2,589,868         | 2,661,785  |

NOTE.—The figures for 1903 are subject to correction in the Annual Return. The values given are the actual values returned by the local officers at each place.

\* Included under "Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish," in this year.



## Fishery Statistics.—Scotland.

STATEMENT of the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of the FISH returned as landed on the SCOTTISH COASTS during the Month and Five Months ended 31st May, 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1902.

|                                                             | May.    |         | Five Months ended May. |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|-----------|
|                                                             | 1903.   | 1902.   | 1903.                  | 1902.     |
| QUANTITY.                                                   |         |         |                        |           |
|                                                             | Owts.   | Owts.   | Owts.                  | Owts.     |
| Sparling ... ..                                             | 1       | 1       | 38                     | 68        |
| Turbot ... ..                                               | 1,082   | 824     | 3,255                  | 1,674     |
| Cod ... ..                                                  | 56,138  | 54,444  | 210,127                | 219,870   |
| Conger Eel ... ..                                           | 804     | 322     | 5,891                  | 8,321     |
| Flounder, Plaice, Brill ... ..                              | 9,750   | 9,199   | 45,286                 | 49,977    |
| Haddock ... ..                                              | 73,870  | 54,938  | 350,906                | 334,316   |
| Halibut ... ..                                              | 5,178   | 3,649   | 10,006                 | 11,468    |
| Herrings ... ..                                             | 221,286 | 209,858 | 551,913                | 666,846   |
| Lemon Soles ... ..                                          | 2,922   | 8,155   | 7,960                  | 6,889     |
| Ling ... ..                                                 | 12,108  | 15,676  | 40,378                 | 70,448    |
| Mackerel ... ..                                             | 303     | 8       | 649                    | 129       |
| Saith (Coal Fish) ... ..                                    | 10,441  | 6,988   | 35,941                 | 34,446    |
| Skate ... ..                                                | 8,674   | 5,479   | 35,644                 | 50,541    |
| Sprats ... ..                                               | 90      | —       | 32,728                 | 1,155     |
| Torsk (Tusk) ... ..                                         | 2,029   | 8,089   | 4,866                  | 5,494     |
| Whiting ... ..                                              | 10,009  | 11,151  | 62,371                 | 77,069    |
| Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ... .. | 7,031   | 7,634   | 25,351                 | 29,148    |
| Total ... ..                                                | 420,681 | 387,297 | 1,423,498              | 1,567,776 |
| Shell fish:—                                                |         |         |                        |           |
|                                                             | No.     | No.     | No.                    | No.       |
| Crabs ... ..                                                | 409,896 | 703,453 | 1,338,604              | 1,506,949 |
| Lobsters ... ..                                             | 86,345  | 77,075  | 199,753                | 246,127   |
| Oysters ... ..                                              | —       | —       | 93,582                 | 191,063   |
|                                                             | Owts.   | Owts.   | Owts.                  | Owts.     |
| Clams ... ..                                                | 96      | 125     | 1,860                  | 2,126     |
| Mussels ... ..                                              | 9,068   | 6,438   | 43,259                 | 34,594    |
| Other shell fish ... ..                                     | 6,513   | 6,542   | 26,192                 | 26,816    |
| VALUE.                                                      |         |         |                        |           |
|                                                             | £       | £       | £                      | £         |
| Sparling ... ..                                             | 5       | 2       | 160                    | 273       |
| Turbot ... ..                                               | 2,523   | 1,478   | 12,753                 | 6,790     |
| Cod ... ..                                                  | 21,765  | 22,078  | 106,256                | 111,311   |
| Conger Eel ... ..                                           | 141     | 145     | 3,522                  | 4,958     |
| Flounder, Plaice, Brill ... ..                              | 10,497  | 10,631  | 58,949                 | 64,166    |
| Haddock ... ..                                              | 30,749  | 38,225  | 237,163                | 233,517   |
| Halibut ... ..                                              | 7,072   | 5,643   | 18,922                 | 21,123    |
| Herrings ... ..                                             | 74,958  | 62,172  | 197,891                | 229,469   |
| Lemon Soles ... ..                                          | 4,329   | 4,234   | 18,028                 | 16,543    |
| Ling ... ..                                                 | 4,032   | 5,067   | 17,339                 | 26,493    |
| Mackerel ... ..                                             | 146     | 4       | 280                    | 118       |
| Saith (Coal Fish) ... ..                                    | 1,632   | 1,011   | 7,130                  | 6,447     |
| Skate ... ..                                                | 1,681   | 1,938   | 11,746                 | 14,967    |
| Sprats ... ..                                               | 18      | —       | 2,440                  | 821       |
| Torsk (Tusk) ... ..                                         | 355     | 437     | 1,276                  | 1,392     |
| Whiting ... ..                                              | 2,710   | 4,327   | 25,530                 | 26,778    |
| Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ... .. | 1,118   | 1,976   | 8,006                  | 9,708     |
| Total ... ..                                                | 163,726 | 169,978 | 719,501                | 779,629   |
| Shell fish:—                                                |         |         |                        |           |
|                                                             | £       | £       | £                      | £         |
| Crabs ... ..                                                | 2,794   | 4,280   | 8,499                  | 9,969     |
| Lobsters ... ..                                             | 4,007   | 3,968   | 10,814                 | 13,444    |
| Oysters ... ..                                              | —       | —       | 397                    | 799       |
| Clams ... ..                                                | 14      | 16      | 265                    | 291       |
| Mussels ... ..                                              | 567     | 400     | 2,567                  | 2,022     |
| Other shell fish ... ..                                     | 1,652   | 1,636   | 6,330                  | 6,597     |
| Total ... ..                                                | 9,034   | 10,300  | 28,892                 | 32,553    |
| Total value of fish landed ... ..                           | 172,760 | 170,298 | 748,393                | 812,182   |

NOTE.—The above figures are subject to correction in the Annual Returns.



## Fishery Statistics.—Ireland.

STATEMENT of the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of the FISH returned as landed on the IRISH COASTS during the Month and Five Months ended 31st May, 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the previous Year.

|                                                          | May.    |         | Five Months ended May. |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|
|                                                          | 1903.   | 1902.   | 1903.                  | 1902.   |
| QUANTITY.                                                |         |         |                        |         |
|                                                          | Cwts.   | Cwts.   | Cwts.                  | Cwts.   |
| Brill ... ..                                             | 56      | *       | 286                    | *       |
| Soles ... ..                                             | 647     | 657     | 1,599                  | 1,783   |
| Turbot ... ..                                            | 77      | 87      | 332                    | 388     |
| Total prime fish ... ..                                  | 780     | 744     | 2,207                  | 2,175   |
| Cod ... ..                                               | 928     | 1,396   | 9,892                  | 8,129   |
| Conger Eel ... ..                                        | 725     | *       | 2,868                  | *       |
| Haddock ... ..                                           | 1,008   | 243     | 2,821                  | 3,451   |
| Hake ... ..                                              | 1,288   | 1,233   | 2,557                  | 3,911   |
| Herrings ... ..                                          | 24,800  | 20,436  | 33,764                 | 35,457  |
| Ling ... ..                                              | 685     | 673     | 2,563                  | 2,816   |
| Mackerel ... ..                                          | 110,789 | 89,281  | 133,188                | 108,972 |
| Plaice ... ..                                            | 2,190   | *       | 7,969                  | *       |
| Ray or Skate ... ..                                      | 924     | *       | 8,610                  | *       |
| Sprats ... ..                                            | 1       | —       | 1                      | 68      |
| Whiting ... ..                                           | 1,564   | 1,606   | 9,240                  | 10,256  |
| Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ... | 2,736   | 5,210   | 12,400                 | 25,214  |
| Total ... ..                                             | 147,918 | 181,971 | 223,080                | 200,217 |
| Shell fish :—                                            | No.     | No.     | No.                    | No.     |
| Crabs ... ..                                             | 6,074   | 21,039  | 10,551                 | 32,739  |
| Lobsters ... ..                                          | 14,643  | 12,979  | 26,046                 | 28,901  |
| Oysters ... ..                                           | —       | —       | +258,480               | 23,650  |
| Mussels ... ..                                           | 480     | Cwts.   | Cwts.                  | Cwts.   |
| Other shell fish ... ..                                  | 1,788   | 2,943   | 9,122                  | 23,124  |
| VALUE.                                                   |         |         |                        |         |
|                                                          | £       | £       | £                      | £       |
| Brill ... ..                                             | 94      | *       | 710                    | *       |
| Soles ... ..                                             | 2,585   | 2,474   | 7,122                  | 7,780   |
| Turbot ... ..                                            | 322     | 338     | 1,780                  | 1,419   |
| Total prime fish ... ..                                  | 3,001   | 2,812   | 9,571                  | 9,199   |
| Cod ... ..                                               | 727     | 788     | 7,170                  | 6,073   |
| Conger Eel ... ..                                        | 372     | *       | 1,395                  | *       |
| Haddock ... ..                                           | 717     | 266     | 2,325                  | 4,213   |
| Hake ... ..                                              | 918     | 1,013   | 2,456                  | 4,060   |
| Herrings ... ..                                          | 13,594  | 7,849   | 15,902                 | 12,975  |
| Ling ... ..                                              | 449     | 287     | 1,319                  | 1,616   |
| Mackerel ... ..                                          | 38,133  | 35,648  | 52,718                 | 43,299  |
| Plaice ... ..                                            | 1,808   | *       | 8,217                  | *       |
| Ray or Skate ... ..                                      | 256     | *       | 1,223                  | *       |
| Sprats ... ..                                            | 1       | —       | 1                      | 27      |
| Whiting ... ..                                           | 840     | 890     | 5,711                  | 6,385   |
| Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish ... | 1,019   | 3,871   | 6,641                  | 19,405  |
| Total ... ..                                             | 61,944  | 53,822  | 115,249                | 112,622 |
| Shell fish :—                                            |         |         |                        |         |
| Crabs ... ..                                             | 68      | 107     | 96                     | 123     |
| Lobsters ... ..                                          | 611     | 657     | 1,191                  | 1,226   |
| Oysters ... ..                                           | —       | —       | +265                   | 212     |
| Mussels ... ..                                           | 12      | *       | 335                    | *       |
| Other shell fish ... ..                                  | 335     | 454     | 1,975                  | 2,549   |
| Total ... ..                                             | 1,026   | 1,118   | 3,862                  | 4,170   |
| Total value of fish landed ... ..                        | 62,970  | 62,940  | 119,111                | 116,352 |

NOTE.—The above figures are subject to correction in the Annual Returns. The values given are the actual values returned by the local officers at each place.

\* Included under "Fish not separately distinguished, except shell fish" prior to 1st June, 1902.  
 \* Including returns for Tralee, no returns having been received in the corresponding months of last year.



## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

### TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of May, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1902, in two volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 11d. for the first, and 5s. for the second volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1898-1902, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and in the second volume details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

### THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 15th June:—State of the Labour Market in May; Agricultural Wages in the United Kingdom in 1902; Recent Conciliation and Arbitration Cases; Census of England and Wales, 1901; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Reports on Employment in the Principal Industries; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

### FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the Annual Series issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

#### No. 2,991. Piræus, 1902.

Shipping returns. Increased importance of Greek mercantile fleet.

Coal trade statistics. Larger consumption.

Comparative tables of principal imports, with countries of origin.

Output and shipments of marble.

This publication contains also a report by the British Vice-Consul at Laurium, showing, *inter alia*, the exports of minerals.



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*Government Publications.*

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**No. 2,992. Cadiz, 1902.**

Returns of principal articles of import and export, with observations as to character of trade.

Industrial undertakings. Harbour works.

Opening for development of transport facilities.

Advice as to methods of trade.

Cadiz as the European port for South Africa.

This publication contains also reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Algeciras, Cordova, Huelva, San Lucar, San Roque and Seville.

**No. 2,993. Réunion, 1902.**

No openings for British trade.

Import, export and shipping returns.

**No. 2,994. Denmark. Trade and Agriculture, 1902.**

Dulness, succeeded by a better tone, owing to good crops.

Progress of trade in dairy produce, &c., with statistics of exports and prices.

Movement of shipping. New pilotage dues.

Openings for trade in sporting requisites, wall paper, &c.

Tables of principal articles of import and export.

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**OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.**

*Africa, No. 5 (1903). Return, giving Date of Purchase and Prices paid for Rails, Sleepers, Girders, Locomotives, Carriages and Bridge-work obtained for the Construction and Working of the Uganda Railway. [Cd. 1,625.] Price ½d.*

This is a return of orders placed for material for the Uganda Railway, indicating the date of each and the price paid.

*Board of Agriculture. Agricultural Statistics, 1902. [Cd. 1,616.] Price 1s. 5d.*

This volume, which is published each year by the Board of Agriculture, contains the definite returns as to the acreage and produce of crops, prices of corn, &c., number of live-stock in Great Britain in 1902, and also similar particulars as regards Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, certain British Colonies and foreign countries. A report summarising and commenting on the returns is prefixed to the tables of statistics. A preliminary statement of the total produce of the crops of wheat, barley, and oats in Great Britain in 1901 has already been published in the "Board of Trade Journal" (see p. 535 of the issue for 18th December last).



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*Government Publications.*

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*Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed report for 1902.* [Cd. 1,614.] Price 1s. 3½d.

This return consists of the tables and report in regard to Irish agriculture which are issued annually by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. The report discusses in some detail the position of the grazing industry in Ireland and the prospects of the Irish store and fat cattle trade in view of foreign and colonial competition on the markets of Great Britain and contains an interesting diagrammatic map showing the sources of supply of live-stock to the United Kingdom. Another point which is discussed is the size of agricultural holdings in Ireland in connection with the question of the smallest holding which will, allowing for a decent standard of living, support a man and his family by their own labour.

*Board of Agriculture (Intelligence Division). Annual Report of Proceedings.* [Cd. 1,611.] Price 5d.

This is a report to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture on the work of the Intelligence Division of that Department in 1902 under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899, the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 to 1894, the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1893, and under Section 2 (Sub-section 3) of the Board of Agriculture Act, 1889.

*Trade of British Possessions. Statement.* [Cd. 1,638.] Price 1d.

This statement shows the value of the imports into and exports (both inclusive and exclusive of bullion and specie) from the various British Colonies and Possessions during the year 1901, the trade with the United Kingdom, with British Possessions and with foreign countries being separately distinguished in each case. The total imports into British Colonies and Possessions in 1901, including imports of bullion and specie but excluding inter-state Australian trade, amounted to 255,485,000l., 35 per cent. of which came from foreign countries; similarly the total exports including bullion and specie, but excluding inter-state Australian trade, amounted to 258,948,000l., 40 per cent. of which went to foreign countries.

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*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

| No.                                | Place.                                            | Price        | No.              | Place.                                                                                     | Price                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>EUROPE—</b>                     |                                                   |              | <b>Roumania:</b> |                                                                                            |                           |
|                                    | <b>Denmark:</b>                                   |              | 2990             | Roumania ... ..                                                                            | 2½d.                      |
| 2984                               | Denmark (Suppl. mentary) ... ..                   | 1901 1d.     |                  | <b>Russia:</b>                                                                             |                           |
| 2994                               | Denmark ... ..                                    | 1902 4d.     | 2979             | Batoum... ..                                                                               | 1902 1½d.                 |
| 2984                               | Faroe Islands ... ..                              | — 2½d.       | 2943             | Odessa (Supplementary) 1901                                                                | 1½d.                      |
| <b>France and Colonies:</b>        |                                                   |              |                  | <b>Servia:</b>                                                                             |                           |
| 2949                               | Brest ... ..                                      | 1902 1½d.    | 2958             | Servia ... ..                                                                              | 1902 1d.                  |
| 2976                               | Calais ... ..                                     | " 2d.        |                  | <b>Spain:</b>                                                                              |                           |
| 2955                               | Cherbourg ... ..                                  | " 1½d.       | 2924             | Bilbao ... ..                                                                              | 1901 2½d.                 |
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| 2939                               | Havre (Agriculture) ... ..                        | 1902 ½d.     | 2992             | Cadiz ... ..                                                                               | " 2d.                     |
| 2960                               | Havre ... ..                                      | " 3d.        |                  | <b>Turkey:</b>                                                                             |                           |
| 2966                               | Indo-China ... ..                                 | " ½d.        | 2970             | Aleppo and Adana ... ..                                                                    | 1902 2d.                  |
| 2978                               | Nantes ... ..                                     | " 1d.        | 2987             | Bussorah ... ..                                                                            | " 1d.                     |
| 2993                               | Réunion ... ..                                    | " ½d.        | 2950             | Constantinople ... ..                                                                      | " 2d.                     |
| <b>German Empire and Colonies:</b> |                                                   |              | 2932             | Crete ... ..                                                                               | 1901 1d.                  |
| 2982                               | Baden ... ..                                      | 1902 1d.     | 2926             | Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... ..                                                        | 1899-1901 2d.             |
| 2971                               | Bavaria-Nuremberg ... ..                          | " 1d.        | 2962             | Palestine ... ..                                                                           | 1902 1d.                  |
| 2956                               | Chemnitz ... ..                                   | " 1d.        | 589              | <i>Mining Industries and Forestry in Turkey</i> ...                                        | 3d.                       |
| 2945                               | Estimates of the German Empire ... ..             | 1903 1d.     |                  | <b>AFRICA—</b>                                                                             |                           |
| 2959                               | Germany ... ..                                    | 1902 1½d.    | 2931             | Alexandria ... ..                                                                          | 1901 and part of 1902 1d. |
| 2983                               | German Colonies 1901-02                           | 2d.          | 2948             | Somaliland Protectorate 1901-02                                                            | 2½d.                      |
| 2977                               | Pomerania ... ..                                  | 1902 3d.     | 588              | <i>Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda</i> ... .. | ½d.                       |
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| <b>Greece:</b>                     |                                                   |              | 2967             | Boston ... ..                                                                              | 1902 3½d.                 |
| 2957                               | Cyclades ... ..                                   | 1902 1d.     | 2988             | California ... ..                                                                          | " 3d.                     |
| 2953                               | Morea, and Provinces of Acarnania and Ætolia 1902 | 1d.          | 2952             | Chicago... ..                                                                              | " 4d.                     |
| 2991                               | Piræus ... ..                                     | " 1½d.       | 2942             | New Orleans ... ..                                                                         | " 2½d.                    |
| 2947                               | Thessaly ... ..                                   | " 1½d.       | 2972             | New York ... ..                                                                            | " 1½d.                    |
| <b>Italy:</b>                      |                                                   |              | 2944             | States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky 1902                             | 1½d.                      |
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| 2965                               | Amsterdam ... ..                                  | 1902 1d.     |                  |                                                                                            |                           |
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| 2951 | Mexico City ... .. 1902       | 2½d.  |      | <b>ASIA—</b>                                                                           |       |
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| 2963 | Nicaragua ... .. 1902         | ½d.   | 2985 | Canton ... .. 1902                                                                     | 1½d.  |
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|      | <b>Argentina:</b>             |       | 2969 | Hankow ... .. "                                                                        | 1½d.  |
| 2940 | Argentine finances 1901-02    | 1½d.  |      | <b>Peria:</b>                                                                          |       |
| 2961 | Buenos Ayres ... .. 1902      | 1½d.  | 580  | <i>Trade and General Con-<br/>dition of the City and<br/>Provinces of Kermanshak..</i> | 4d.   |
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| 2946 | Coquimbo ... .. 1901          | ½d.   |      |                                                                                        |       |

**Treaty Series.**

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources:—

| No. |                                                                                                                                                                       | Price |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
|     | <b>EUROPE—</b>                                                                                                                                                        |       |
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| 5   | Convention between the United Kingdom and Denmark for regulating the fisheries outside territorial waters in the ocean surrounding the Farø Islands and Iceland... .. | 7½d.  |
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| 2   | Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar ... ..                                | 1d.   |
|     | <b>AMERICA, NORTH—</b>                                                                                                                                                |       |
|     | <b>United States of America:</b>                                                                                                                                      |       |
| 4   | Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska ... ..      | ½d.   |



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|     | Venezuela :                                                                                                                                 |        |
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|     | Corea :                                                                                                                                     |        |
| 3   | Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field ... ..      | 1d.    |
| 7   | International Convention relative to bounties on sugar ...                                                                                  | 1½d.   |

**COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.**

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C. :—

**Annual.**

| No. | Place.                     | Price. |
|-----|----------------------------|--------|
| 377 | Northern Nigeria ... ..    | 2½d.   |
| 378 | British Guiana ... ..      | 2½d.   |
| 379 | Mauritius ... ..           | 3½d.   |
| 380 | Basutoland ... ..          | 8d.    |
| 381 | Southern Nigeria ... ..    | 2½d.   |
| 382 | Trinidad and Tobago ... .. | 1½d.   |
| —   | Cyprus ... ..              | 8d.    |
| 383 | Bermuda ... ..             | 1½d.   |
| 384 | St. Lucia ... ..           | 2d.    |
| 385 | St. Vincent ... ..         | 2d.    |



# THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

## OF THE

### BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1d. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.



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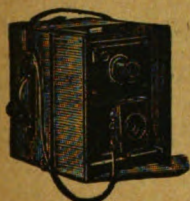


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No. 343.

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THE

# Board of Trade Journal

(With which is incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

JUNE 25, 1903.

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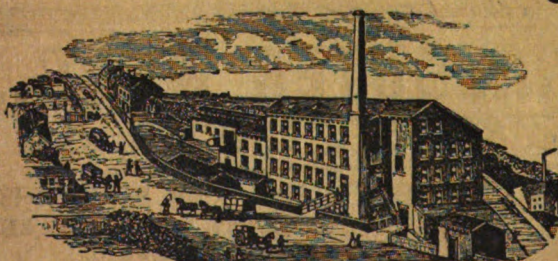
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# THE Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. XLI.]

June 25, 1903.

[No. 348.]

Information on the subjects named in the notice on the cover will be found in the following Board of Trade publications, obtainable at Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, at the prices named, viz. :—

- 1) Statistical Abstract for the ( pp. 24/25
- 2) United Kingdom, 49th } p. 12
- 3) number (Cd. 1,239), at } pp. 49/155
- 4) 1s. 2d. ... .. } pp. 156/171, 188/191
- 4A Annual Statement of Trade, 1902.
- Vol. I. (Cd. 1,582) at 6s. 11d. ... pp. 132 to end
- 4B Annual Statement of Trade, 1902. .
- Vol. II. (Cd. 1,617) at 5s. ... pp. 177/455
- 5) Annual Abstract of Labour } pp. 164/171
- 6) Statistics, 8th number } pp. 34/40
- (Cd. 1,124) at 11½d. ...
- 7 Food Supplies (Imported) Return (179) at 4½d.
- 8 Colonial Import Duties Return (Cd. 1,356) at 1s. 11d.
- 9 Statistical Abstract for the several Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom, 39th number (Cd. 1,325) at 1s. 7d. ... pp. 34/205
- 9A Trade of British Possessions. Statement . . . . . during the year 1901 (Cd. 1,638) at 1d.
- 10 Foreign Import Duties Return (Cd. 780) at 1s. 10d.
- 11 Statistical Abstract for the principal and other foreign countries, 28th number (Cd. 1,237) at 1s. 6d. ... pp. 42/213
- 12 Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics (Cd. 720) at 1s. 4½d. ... pp. 1/161
- 13 Memorandum on the comparative Statistics of Population, Industry, and Commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading foreign countries (Cd. 1,199) at 5½d.

A



## OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

### BRITISH INDIA.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply (1) bogie goods waggons; (2) locomotives, tank, for the Indian State Railways.

**Tenders for  
Goods Waggons,  
and Tank  
Locomotives.**

The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by two o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 30th June, for No. 1, and on Tuesday, the 7th July, for No. 2, after which times respectively, no tender will be received.

The Board of Trade have been notified by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company that the Directors are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following stores, namely:—

**Tenders for  
Railway  
Material.** Wheels and Axles, Bearing Springs, Spiral Springs, Portable Forges, Railway Tickets, &c., Soft Soap, Firebricks, Carbolie Acid Powder and Fluid.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned.

Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Wheels and Axles," or as the case may be, not later than 11 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, the 2nd July.

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

### CANADA.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade. Offices, Victoria Street, S.W., where further information may be obtained:—

**Home Enquiries.**—Enquiry is made for the addresses of Canadian shippers of box-shooks by a London firm in a position to place large orders.

A North of England correspondent has asked to be placed in communication with Canadian exporters of manufactured horse hair.

A London export merchant has requested to be referred to large flour millers in Canada who are interested in the South African market.

Application has been received for the names of the leading iron and steel manufacturers in the Dominion.



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### **CANADA—continued.**

**Canadian Enquiries.**—A Montreal correspondent has asked to be furnished with the addresses of jute manufacturers in Great Britain.

A firm of wholesale fish dealers at Halifax, Nova Scotia, ask to be placed in communication with importers of fish at Alicante, Spain, and with shippers of salt at Cadiz, Spain, and Augusta (Sicily).

The Canadian owner of a patent truck wishes to get into communication with an English manufacturer of such goods who would be likely to take over the patent for the United Kingdom.

**Note.**—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.** Section of the Imperial Institute, from the Curator of which Section further particulars may be obtained:—

**Home Enquiries.**—A firm of importers invite quotations from Canadian manufacturers of basswood broom handles 50 in. by 1½ in.

A firm of mica importers ask to be placed in communication with Canadian shippers of this mineral.

The proprietors of a chemical speciality for electrical batteries are prepared to appoint as resident agents a Canadian firm connected with the electrical trade.

**Canadian Enquiries.**—A New Brunswick correspondent seeks a few agencies in grocery and similar classes of goods. Bankers references.

A Montreal manufacturers' agent wishes to obtain agencies in heavy hardware goods such as steel billets and slabs, tin and Canada plates, galvanised sheets, also cutlery.

**Note.**—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

#### **AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.**

Tenders will be received at the Supply and Tender Board Office, Adelaide, up till 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th August, for the supply and delivery at the Education Stores, Grote Street, or such other place in Adelaide as may be directed by the Inspector-General of Schools, of super-calendered

**Tenders for  
Printing Paper  
in South  
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### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### **AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—continued.**

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300 reams double demy, 22½ in. by 35 in., weight 40 lbs.

Tenderers may quote for either of the above-mentioned items, and the Supply and Tender Board reserve the right to accept a portion or the whole of any tender.

The paper must be packed in cases in the flat, each ream being separately tied up, and be of the specified weight to the ream of 480 sheets, exclusive of string and wrapper; it must also be equal in all respects to the samples to be seen and obtained at the office of the Inspector General of Schools, Adelaide, where forms of tender and any information may also be obtained.

The whole of each description of the paper is to be manufactured in one lot, and delivery will be required in two shipments; the first shipment of one half of the quantity of each item is to be delivered within eight months from the date of notice of acceptance of tender, and the second shipment of the remaining half within ten months from such date, under a penalty in each case of 2½ per cent. per month, or part of a month, for delay beyond the specified dates.

The paper is to be subject to the approval of the Inspector-General of Schools, whose decision in cases of dispute is to be considered final.

Tenders should be endorsed "Tender for Printing Paper, Education Department."

The successful tenderer will be required, within seven days of date of notice of acceptance, to make a deposit equal to 5 per cent. of the total value of the accepted tender as security for the due fulfilment of contract.

Neither the lowest nor any tender necessarily accepted.

Tenders will be received at the Supply and Tender Board Office,

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tenders for<br/>Railway<br/>Materials in<br/>South Australia.</b> | Adelaide, up to 3 o'clock p.m. of Wednesday, 19th August, for the supply of the following materials, delivered in bond, on wharf, Port Adelaide, wharfage to be paid by the contractor :— |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

204 bars of channel steel (three drawings, 1s. each).

208 bars of angle steel (5 drawings, 1s. each).

40 bars of tee steel (one drawing, 1s. each).

14 bars of square root angle steel (one drawing, 1s. each).

107 mild steel plates or bars.

50 mild steel bars.

110 bars chain iron.

2,500 bars Netherton crown iron.

48 spiral bearing springs (three drawings, 1s. each).



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*Openings for British Trade.*

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**AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—continued.**

- 100 draw and buffing springs (one drawing, 1s. each).
- 700 carriage and waggon tyres (two drawings, 1s. each).
- 612 carriage and waggon axles (three drawings, 1s. each).
- 524 cast-steel wheel centres (two drawings, 3s. each).
- 5 bars cast-steel for milling cutters.
- 22 emery wheels.
- 2 best steel crank axles (one drawing, 5s. each).
- 12 machine centre bits (one drawing, 1s. each).
- 18 best cast-steel horn blocks (one drawing, 5s. each).
- 20 bars coping iron for cab (one drawing, 1s. each).
- 50 bars of bulb iron (one drawing, 1s. each).
- 382 solid drawn mild steel tubes.
- 1 steam pressure gauge.
- 9 mild steel motion plates.
- 96 bars Netherton crown hexagon iron.
- 24 Gresham's combination injectors.
- 480 Westinghouse automatic quick-acting brake details.
- 40 solid drawn best copper pipes.

Specifications may be seen and forms of tender obtained at the above office, and at the office of the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Islington, South Australia; specifications may also be seen at the office of the Agent-General for South Australia, in London. [It should be noted that tender forms are not obtainable or tenders received at the office of the Agent-General.]

Copies of indent, with specifications complete (12s. each) and drawings, may be obtained at the Chief Mechanical Engineer's office, Islington, South Australia.

Date of delivery, as well as the names of the manufacturers of the materials tendered for, must be distinctly stated in each tender.

The materials are to be subject to the inspection, test, and approval of the Government Inspecting Engineer in London, or the Chief Mechanical Engineer in Adelaide.

The expenses of the inspecting engineer will be paid by the Agent-General, London (except in cases as specified), who will also advance 75 per cent. on the contract upon receipt of bills of lading, insurance policy, and the usual shipping documents, accompanied by the certificate of the inspecting engineer; and the balance of the contract will be paid in Adelaide or London, at the option of the contractor, upon satisfactory delivery of the materials.

Successful tenderers will be required, within seven days of date of notice of acceptance of tender, to enter into an agreement and make a deposit equal to 5 per cent. of the total value of their accepted tender as security for the due fulfilment of contract.

Tenders should be endorsed "Tenders for Railway Materials."

Neither the lowest nor any tender necessarily accepted.

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### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### MALTA.

Sealed tenders will be received at the office of the Receiver-General and Director of Contracts, Valletta, up to 11 a.m. on Friday, the 10th July next, for the supply of flanged cast-iron pipes and irregular castings.

**Tenders for Cast-iron Pipes and Irregular Castings.** Tenders received after the said date and hour will not be considered.

Tenders are to be accompanied with a deposit of 100*l.*, to be made in the Office of the Crown Agents by tenderers residing in Great Britain, not having a representative in Malta, and in the Office of the Receiver-General and Director of Contracts, by local tenderers.

The tenderer whose offer is accepted shall be held to have bound himself to an agreement, and may be compelled to carry out the obligations arising from his tender, notwithstanding that he may not have signed a formal contract.

The Government reserves to itself the right of accepting, or rejecting, any of the tenders received.

Particulars, specifications, &c., may be obtained on application to the Superintendent of Public Works, in Malta, or to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Downing Street, London.

#### STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

A few samples of foreign-made hardware sold in the Straits Settlements have been received at the Temporary Enquiry Office, 49, Eastcheap, of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, from the Officer designated to answer trade enquiries in Singapore. The samples, which consist of German-made and native-made "Parangs," also German "Changkol" heads and American axe-head, may be seen at the office named every day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

#### EGYPT.

An announcement appears in the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of 13th June to the effect that tenders will be received at the Central Office, Sanitary Department, Ministry of Interior, Cairo, up to 11 a.m. on the 11th of July, 1903, for the proposed electric light installation at Kasr-el-Aini.

**Tenders for Electric Light Installation.** Persons wishing to tender for this work can do so by applying to the above Administration, where the contract can be examined and a copy of same obtained, any day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fridays and local holidays excepted.



### *Openings for British Trade*

Tenders must be submitted on a 30 millièmes stamped paper, in a sealed envelope addressed to the Director-General, Sanitary Department, bearing the inscription "Tender for the proposed Electric Light Installation at Kasr-el-Aini Hospital."

The Administration reserves to itself the right to accept the lowest or any tender.

### NORWAY.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, a despatch notifying that tenders in sealed envelopes marked "Petroleum" for the supply of 312,550 kilogrammes of petroleum will be received at the Railway Managers' Office, State Railways, Christiania, not later than 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 21st July.

Conditions of tender can be seen on applying at the office of the Director of the Engineering Department, State Railways, Christiania.

### NETHERLANDS.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, a despatch notifying that the Netherlands Minister for the Colonies is prepared to receive tenders on Wednesday, 15th day of July next, at the Technical Bureau of the Ministry, up to 12

midday, for the supply of:—

Contract, Surinam No. I.—

7,280 tons of steel rails, with appurtenances.

Contract, Surinam No. II.—

30 lorries.

100 tip-waggons.

3 sets of wheels and axles, with appurtenances.

Contract, Surinam No. III.—

725,000 steel bolts.

Contract C 9.—Metal work for seven ordinary bridges.

Contract D 9.—Metal work for a tramway bridge, with span of 15 metres.

Particulars to be had from the bookseller, Mart. Nijhoff, 18, Nobelstraat, The Hague, at the price of

Fl. 6 (10s.) for Contract C 9.

Fl. 2 (3s. 4d.) for Contracts, Surinam I. and D 9.

Fl. 1 (1s. 8d.) „ „ „ II. and III.



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### BELGIUM.

The "Moniteur Belge" of the 15th/16th June contains an announcement to the effect that tenders will be opened on the 8th July, by the "Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux," at No. 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels, for the extension to Petite-Chapelle of the local line from Chimay to Cul-des-Sarts and for the construction of certain junction lines in connection.

**Tenders for  
Railway  
Construction.**

The upset price of the work is 48,329 francs (1,933*l.*), and a deposit of 4,800 francs (192*l.*) is required. Tenders by registered letter must be addressed to the Director-General of the Company at the address given above, where they will be received not later than 7th July. Plans, estimates, and conditions of contract may be seen at the Company's office and at the office of M. Simon, Rue de l'Ecluse, No. 19, Charleroi.

A statement of the conditions of contract may be obtained at the offices named on payment of 1 franc.

#### SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of the 15th June contains a Royal Order authorising Don Francisco Crooke y Heredia, to construct and work, according to conditions laid down, a metal wharf for shipping minerals between the mouths of the Rivers Guadalhorce and Guadalmedina, within the municipal boundary of Malaga. The contract for the work will apparently amount to 750,000 pesetas, or about 21,878*l.*

**Metal Pier  
Building.**

The same "Gaceta" contains a Decree granting to Don Ramon Altarriba, Baron de Sangarren, an appropriation of 8,000 litres of water per second from the River Garona, in the province of Lerida, for the production of motive power with a view to the establishment of a paper factory in the district of Ses, in the said province.

**Hydro-Electric  
Plant.**

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of the 16th June contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened at 4 p.m. on the 27th June, in the Sessions Hall of the Municipality of Langreo (Oviedo), for the construction of a metal bridge over the River Nalon, on the road connecting La Felguera with Lada. The upset price of the contract is 81,784.87 pesetas, or about 2,386*l.*

**Metal Bridge  
Building.**

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 18th June contains a notice calling for tenders, to be presented in the office of Puertos y Señales Maritimas, Calle de Moratin 58, Madrid, up to the 20th July next, and in

**Lighthouse  
Building.**



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*Openings for British Trade.*

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all the Civil Government Offices of the Peninsula as well as in the Balears, and which will be opened at 11 a.m. on 30th July next, for the execution of the lighthouse works at Pollensa, in the Province of the Balears, at the upset price of 50,407·58 pesetas, or about 1,470*l.* A provisional deposit of 2,525 pesetas, or about 74*l.*, is required to qualify any tender. The specifications, conditions, and plans of the work are on view in the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, and Public Works, Madrid, as well as in the Civil Government Offices of the Province of the Balears.

See notice on p. 534 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 18th June, as to the lantern.

The "Gacetas" containing the above notices may be seen by those interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., on any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

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**ROUMANIA.**

The British Vice-Consul at Galatz in a recent report states that a disposition is beginning to make itself felt among the richer classes in Roumania to furnish their houses with British-made goods. This growing disposition, he says, should be taken advantage of and fostered. Ordinary furniture is made in the country or imported from Austria-Hungary or Germany. For the better class qualities buyers look to the United Kingdom and France, and for some styles to Italy. The best method of doing business would be to send travellers and not to be disappointed if at first no orders are forthcoming. Above all, French and German-speaking travellers should be sent out, men with good address and a thorough knowledge of the goods they offer, as well as of the several styles and designs their principals could offer.

With regard to wall paper the Vice-Consul says that most houses in Roumania are stencilled and not papered, but those of modern construction are not considered finished unless they are papered, and with designs which are pleasant to behold. British paper designs are unknown. The supply comes from France, Austria-Hungary, and Germany. No doubt with a little adroitness a demand could be created for this article, but this could not come about by simply posting samples and price lists (which British firms so often think is enough). This, like so many other goods, must be pushed and brought to the notice of the public as well as of the dealers in Roumania.



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### **ROUMANIA—continued.**

As regards writing paper, the Vice-Consul remarks that superior paper, as known in the United Kingdom, is seldom procurable in Roumania, and those qualities which are often represented to be "British-made" are very inferior German or Austro-Hungarian make. France supplies small quantities of fair quality, and British makers now and then get a good order, but no business worth speaking of is done with the United Kingdom. The fact that dealers in Roumania are always so very anxious to convince retail purchasers that the Continental paper he offers is good and therefore more expensive, because it is "British," tends to make one believe that a market is open to British manufacturers.

As an instance of how superior British paper is appreciated in high quarters, the case of the Notarial Tribunal at Bucharest might be quoted: this Government Department insisted on the paper of their registers being of the best British quality and the genuine article.

Further on, in his report the Vice-Consul points to the fact that some British qualities of belting are sold in Roumania as going to prove that business is possible, but the bulk of the trade seems to be in the hands of the Austro-Hungarians and Germans, amongst whom there is a keen competition.

For the sale of patent medicines, the Vice-Consul states that it is necessary to obtain the sanction of the Central Sanitary Council at Bucharest. Among the 200 odd kinds authorised by that Council and now sold in the country, only two or three are of British make. Beyond question, he adds, there are many patent medicines now exclusively used in the United Kingdom which would find a ready sale in Roumania if passed by the Council and judiciously pushed. Over-advertising is detrimental as far as this class of goods is concerned.

With regard to cutlery and electro-plate, the Vice-Consul thinks that possibly there may be difficulties at the outset in placing orders, for the qualities now sold are either very cheap and inferior or too expensive to the ordinary buyer. What is required is a serviceable article of medium quality, and the difficulty would be to supply it at such a price as would tempt the buyers to prefer British-made goods to those he is now obliged to buy.



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### **ROUMANIA**—*continued.*

Finally the Vice-Consul remarks that although British-made pianos are very good, yet it would be difficult to find one in Roumania. They come mostly from Germany and Austria-Hungary, and a firm pushes its name by giving a large commission to the dealer. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series, 2,990.*)

#### **TURKEY-IN-ASIA.**

The "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" of the 18th June, publishes an announcement from the French Consul at Damascus to the effect that it is proposed to convey the drinking water from Ain Fighé to Damascus by means of cast-iron canalisation pipes, which must be of 25 centimetres diameter, and capable of resisting a pressure of ten atmospheres. Through the city itself the pipes must be of 3 centimetres diameter.

Hitherto the water has been conveyed by open canals. Offers should be addressed to the Governor of Syria, Damascus.

#### **ARGENTINA.**

The "Boletin Oficial" of Argentina of 12th May contains a Decree authorising the expenditure of dollars 34,266.05 m/n., about 3,019*l.*, for the prolongation of the telegraph system in the territory of the Pampas Central, and the construction of the line between General Acha and Santa Rosa de Toay.

The "Boletin Oficial" of Argentina of 16th May contains a notice calling for tenders, which must be presented before 2 p.m. on 25th August next, in the "Juzgado de Sección" in Corrientes, or in the Secretariat of the "Dirección General de Obras de Salubridad de la Nación," Rivadavia 1,255, Buenos Aires, and which will be opened at 2 p.m. on the 2nd of September next, for the execution of water supply works for the City of Corrientes. The full description of the works is given in the sheet of conditions contained in the estimate and the plans, which may be seen in the office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Rivadavia 1,255, Buenos Aires.

The "Boletins" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).



### *Openings for British Trade.*

#### **BRAZIL.**

With reference to the article on p. 403 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 28th May, a copy of a telegram from H.M. Minister at Rio de Janeiro, has been received at the Board of Trade from the Foreign Office notifying that the call for tenders for the concession to extract monazite sand on the foreshore of Espirito Santo was published on the 17th June on these conditions:—

1. Percentage to Government on value of all sand exported as proved by documents of sale, but to be considered for purposes of percentage as not less than 20% for raw and 90% for prepared sand.
2. Minimum export 1,000 tons raw or 200 prepared sand.
3. At expiration of contract plant becomes Government property.
4. Brazilian courts decide disputes.
5. Caution money 2,500%. Tenders received Brazil or London, accompanied by 500% deposit up to 14th September.

Acceptance to depend on:—

- (a) Minimum period of lease.
- (b) Maximum percentage offered.
- (c) Maximum premium offered and when payable.
- (d) Status of tenderer.

#### **FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS.**

##### **RUSSIA.**

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the 23rd May/5th June announces that next autumn an International Exhibition of objects connected with the Education, Clothing, and Hygiene of Children will be opened in the Tauride Palace, St. Petersburg.

**International  
Exhibition of  
Juvenile  
Education  
Hygiene and  
Clothing.**

The Honorary Presidency has been accepted by M. Timiriazew, of the Ministry of Finance.

##### **FRANCE.**

With reference to the notice on p. 254 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 7th May, respecting an International Exhibition of Hygiene, Life-saving, Sports, Fishery, and Ambulance, which is to be held in Paris from September to November, 1904, the Board of Trade have now received a copy of the general classification of the articles to be exhibited together with the regulations governing the exhibition.

The above may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (except Saturdays, 1 p.m.).



## BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

**San Francisco.**—In his recent report (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,988), H.M. Consul-General at San Francisco gives the following table of freight rates from Liverpool, which will, it is hoped, make it plain to all that the way to trade with San Francisco is to do so direct and not by means of a middleman in the Eastern States:—

## FREIGHT RATES.

| Goods.            | —                            | From Liverpool to San Francisco.       |                         |                                                                                   |                    | From Liverpool to New York.              | From New York to San Francisco.       |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                   |                              | Trans-Continental <i>via</i> New York. | <i>Via</i> New Orleans. | <i>Via</i> Straits of Magellan, Hamburg Line.                                     | <i>Via</i> Panama. |                                          |                                       |
| Hardware ...      | Per 100 lbs. ...             | Dol. c. 1 75                           | Dol. c. 1 63            | These rates fluctuate, and cut under all others except sail <i>via</i> Cape Horn. | Dol. c. 1 22       | About 7 dol. 50 c. per ton of 2,000 lbs. | Same as Trans-Continental (column 1). |
| China ...         | " " ...                      | 1 30                                   | 1 63                    |                                                                                   | 1 22               |                                          |                                       |
| Dry goods ...     | " " ...                      | 2 60                                   | 2 18                    |                                                                                   | 2 4                |                                          |                                       |
| Earthenware ...   | " " ...                      | 1 30                                   | 0 95                    |                                                                                   | 0 71               |                                          |                                       |
| Tin plates ...    | " " ...                      | 1 25                                   | 0 75                    |                                                                                   | 0 49               |                                          |                                       |
| Pig-iron ...      | " " ...                      | " " ...                                | " " ...                 |                                                                                   | " " ...            |                                          |                                       |
|                   | (car-load lots)              | 0 75                                   | 0 49                    |                                                                                   | 0 40               |                                          |                                       |
| Cement ...        | Per 100 lbs. (car-load lots) | 0 80                                   | 0 33                    |                                                                                   | 0 40               |                                          |                                       |
| Coal and coke*... | Per 100 lbs. (car-load lots) | 0 75                                   | —                       |                                                                                   | —                  |                                          |                                       |

\* By sail, *via* Cape Horn, according to charter.

San Francisco should be visited by direct representatives of British houses. Old-established British firms, no doubt, carry on large businesses through their branches at home, but the British commercial traveller is almost unknown.

As a rule German New York houses are entrusted to sell British goods, but they, as a rule, try to sell a German made article, and, if unsuccessful, then, and only then, offer the British-made goods. The reason is that German goods are cheaper, look as well, and pay them larger commission. A large German house, with a branch in New York, with their own cutlery factories in Germany and one in the United States, is given the exclusive agency for the best known brands of British pocket cutlery. When their travellers go to sell they offer the German made goods first, the American second, and if they can sell either they do not mention or show the British. Is it surprising, says the Consul-General, that the United Kingdom is so fast losing her American cutlery trade? A buyer for one of the largest American houses states that in 30 years he has never seen a British cutlery salesman, but has seen and bought from hundreds of Germans. The same German house is agent for the best known brand of British made anvils, and at the same time have a factory of their own in the United States, and copy the British article and offer it for much less and guarantee it to be as good.

¶ The Consul-General adds:—

¶ "The necessity of securing the California trade in California



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itself cannot be too strongly insisted on. The Germans and Belgians are working on intelligent lines and doing a very large business, and with a careful study of the market made on the spot the United Kingdom and her colonies can immensely increase their trade in this district."

**Adana.**—A report by the British Vice-Consul at Adana has been received at the Foreign Office, from which the following extract has been made:—

"I am glad to say that I have recently received catalogues from British houses in the French language and French comparative weights and measures, which is a step in the right direction. I would strongly advise our traders to send a card with name, address, and business, before troubling to send expensive trade circulars and catalogues to Consulates. In case a sale exists for such goods we shall not fail to reply. This will save much trouble, expense, and misapprehension, and will enable traders to form a good idea of what trade they can expect all over the world. By the present system no reply reaches them unless a definite question is asked, and remaining in doubt, they continue to send catalogues, many of which must necessarily be of no use whatever in certain parts of the world."

**Roumania.**—In his recent report on the trade of Roumania for the year 1902, the British Vice-Consul at Galatz writes:—

"Although the United Kingdom obtains a good place in imports, it cannot be denied that hers is a downward course.

"It is very necessary that a commercial traveller in Roumania should be well acquainted with French and German. In order to obtain this result the firm invokes the aid of a German, often a Jew, who serves his British master for a time and learns where our strength and weakness lie. In the meantime, the commercial traveller does not forget his own interests, and before long he is in the employ of a German firm who profit greatly by his experience of British and German trade methods. I do not, of course, mean to imply that the same person when in the employ of a British firm failed to serve his master with diligence and fidelity.

"In the case of the commercial traveller being an Englishman, he will often be found to be deficient in knowledge of the language of the country. Unlike the German, he does not think of calling on the Consul, invoking his knowledge of the place. He forgets, too, that a firm considered safe a year ago may not be so at the time of his visit. No German or Austrian, travelling for a German or Austro-Hungarian firm, would dream of going to various shops, &c., for orders without first paying his Consul a visit, and making thorough enquiries regarding firms new and old, and fresh markets.

"In the case of British firms, who dispense with the aid of commercial travellers, the case is more serious. They happen to hear



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of a "new opening." It does not occur to them to first enquire of their Consul as to the truth of the statements, or to ascertain the financial status of the foreign firm. In their turn they are losers, and only then is the Consul's assistance sought.

"A mistake made by traders at home is to refer the Roumanian enquirer to a Continental agent who, though he may have booked the sole agency of the article required for sale in South-Eastern Europe, has not sought properly to place it there. Such a system generally results to the disadvantage of the British maker, for it often happens that the Continental agent is represented here in a general manner by a commission agent, who deals in similar articles emanating from the Continent, and whose interest it is to dispose of the goods upon which he himself earns all the commission.

"In other cases, correspondence with the Continental agent ends in nothing being done, because that gentleman does not think it worth while to give himself much trouble about small sample orders.

"Then again, the Roumanian cannot understand why he should be referred to the Continent for British-made goods. The result is that, to save himself trouble, he buys foreign-made goods from a foreign Continental firm.

"It is a serious want of consideration on the part of British traders to place their agencies in the hands of persons dealing in or representing the makers of similar goods in Austria-Hungary, Germany, &c. On the basis that 'No man can serve two masters,' it would be prudent to refuse to give the 'sole sale' of any particular line of British-made goods to an agent or commission house selling Continental makes at the same time. When a 'sole agency' is insisted upon the conditions should be binding on both parties.

"The 'cash against documents,' or 'cash with order,' or 'London reference' quotations are seldom considered, and this because Continental suppliers do not, except in very few cases, insist on or pretend to such terms. The credit system is too firmly rooted and too much practised on the Continent to be altered suddenly, and in the majority of cases the British trader who expects to do a regular and general business upon any other system had better, in most cases, save himself the trouble of trying to do so. The statement that 'it is against the principles of the firm to do business except against cash' does not impress the buyer here. Vienna and Berlin, closer at hand and ever represented by competent commercial travellers, supply goods when required, and this on the only conditions which will allow of business being done.

"In Braila an unofficial court decides cases when called upon to do so. This saves much expense and trouble, and prevents the



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case in dispute entering the Law Courts, which would mean a costly and long affair, and expenses are increased by the fact that all documents must be translated into Roumanian.

"In all contracts it is possible to insert a clause, binding (in cases of dispute) the parties to the decision of this Braila Court, which is composed of merchants, &c." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,990.)

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### CANADIAN PAPER INDUSTRY.

In its issue for May, "Industrial Canada," the organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, contains an account of the Canadian paper industry, an industry which, it is said, has shown marked improvement during the last few years, and which on account of ample resources will certainly become great in the future, provided it receives proper attention.

In the course of this article, in which attention is drawn to the abundant natural resources of Canada for paper-making, it is stated that in a short time the paper mills of Canada will be able to produce about 1,300,000 lbs. of paper every 24 hours. This total will include not only news print, book paper, and ledger, bond and writing paper, but the coarser grades of product as well, such as wrapping, felt, building and manilla papers.

During the three-quarters of a century that have elapsed since the birth of the paper-making industry in Canada, mills have sprung up in various sections of the country, and there are at the present time about forty in operation, principally in Ontario and Quebec. The quality of their product has of late years exhibited a remarkable improvement. As regards the finer grades of paper, such as book paper, cover paper, note paper and the like, the same may be said. It is not so long ago since the demand was entirely for foreign-made goods. Indeed, Canadian mills made no attempt to capture the market. Now, through the energy and perseverance of the manufacturers, excellent paper is turned out, which can well hold its own with the imported article.

Notwithstanding, imports steadily advance. In 1898 a value of 1,135,904 dols. was imported; in 1902, 1,945,786 dols., the great bulk comprising papeteries, pads, printing paper and wall paper.

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## THE FOREIGN TRADE AND SHIPPING OF CHINA IN 1902.

The following article on the foreign trade of China in 1902 is based on the "Report on the Trade of China, and Abstract of Statistics" for 1902, recently published by order of the Inspector-General of the Chinese Imperial Customs, and is in continuation of the article published at pp. 345-58 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 22nd May, 1902:—

[NOTE.—The average value of the Haikwan tael is stated to have been 2s. 11 $\frac{2}{3}$ d. in 1901, and 2s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in 1902. Picul = 133 $\frac{1}{3}$  lbs. avoirdupois or 3 piculs = 400 lbs.]

### I.—General.

Three noteworthy events connected with commerce took place during the year; the negotiation of a new British Commercial Treaty, the revision of the Import Tariff, and a heavy fall in exchange. Of these the last may prove important. The revised Import Tariff, owing to the fall in exchange and the rise in silver prices since the years 1897, 1898, and 1899—upon the average values during which years the 5 per cent. calculations were based, in accordance with the terms of the Protocol,—has left the incidence of taxation very much as before. But the collapse in exchange, which will call for higher currency prices for new cargo, with the uncertainty of its future movements, naturally disturbs the import trade; while, by augmenting the amount which the Government has to find to pay its gold obligations, it has led to heavier internal taxation, which has a tendency to counteract any temporary advantage in price to exports. The report goes on to say:—

"What the foreign trade of China might be is shown by a comparison with Japan, which, with a population of less than one-seventh, spends almost exactly as much as China on foreign goods. But before such expansion can be looked for domestic trade must be relieved from the taxation of goods in transit, local industries must be assisted instead of being hampered by excise and by taxes on raw materials, and the enormous resources of the country must be developed. Meanwhile trade is slowly growing, and will continue to grow, in spite of artificial obstructions."

Conditions were not altogether favourable to commerce. A very severe outbreak of cholera throughout almost the whole Empire; droughts followed by floods in the south, where a rebellion is not yet suppressed; and a want of confidence in the northern provinces, all had a retarding influence. The fall in exchange had no immediate effect in checking imports, as contracts are made some months in advance. The experience of the past shows that the import trade has progressed in spite of a falling exchange, and presumably it will gradually accommodate itself to a new scale of prices; but a fall of 20 per cent. in one year cannot fail to be a disturbing factor which may make itself felt in 1903.



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*The Foreign Trade and Shipping of China in 1902.*

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The estimated value of the foreign trade, import and export, was Hk. tls. 529,545,489, a figure never before reached.

## II.—Imports.

The value of the net Imports\* was estimated at Hk. tls. 315,363,905, and this value, owing to the operation of the 5 per cent. *ad valorem* duty collected during ten months of the year, may be taken as approximately correct. It is a large advance on any previous year, and should reassure those who imagine that China is becoming poorer.

The importation of opium was 50,801 piculs—again a small advance. The demand throughout the year was brisk, especially for the Bengal varieties, although the fall in exchange forced up prices. The consumption of Malwa fell off, partly owing to its dearness and partly owing to its extensive adulteration in China with the Native drug. The crop of Szechwan opium was short, and the disturbances in that province interfered for a time with its free movement; this raised the price and assisted Indian opium in the difficulties caused by exchange.

The value of cotton goods of all kinds imported was estimated at Hk. tls. 127,545,309, as compared with Hk. tls. 99,651,999 during 1901, and nearly all the principal staples shared in the increase. Large purchases were made towards the end of the previous year to replenish depleted stocks and prepare for the expected revival of trade in the northern markets, and the arrivals during 1902 were so heavy that a considerable quantity remained in the godowns of the foreign importers at the end of the year. Imports of grey shirtings rose from 4,121,655 to 6,817,698 pieces; white shirtings, from 2,476,846 to 2,743,104 pieces. T-cloths of all kinds advanced, especially Indian, which rose from 15,320 to 126,485 pieces. There was a good demand for drills, and English jeans made the astonishing advance from 41,083 to 360,858 pieces, while Dutch and American about doubled. Sheetings also found an increased enquiry, the American trade showing considerable improvement. It is interesting to note, and is not without significance, that Japanese drills rose from 23 to 11,620 pieces, and Japanese sheetings from 13,006 to 115,366 pieces. Chintzes, &c., were nearly trebled in quantity, twills doubled, and Turkey reds rose from 192,930 to 276,996 pieces. Handkerchiefs and towels showed satisfactory advance. English cotton yarn continued its downward course, and has now fallen to 32,351 piculs, while Indian has reached 1,887,086 piculs, and Japanese, 522,408 piculs.

The trade in woollen goods showed that the improvement of the previous year was only temporary, and the importation fell off again.

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\* Exclusive of goods carried coastwise. For total value of imports, see p. 597.



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**Metals** were valued at Hk. tls. 10,574,928, about the same as in 1901, and the trade presented no special features of interest, except an increase in the importation of copper, presumably for the coinage of the new cash.

**Sundries** were valued at Hk. tls. 136,948,982, or about 17 millions higher than in 1901. The import of rice was doubled owing to bad crops in the south, and was valued at Hk. tls. 23,611,125. **Morphia** was again imported in larger quantities, but it is to be hoped that this was not due to increased demand, but to the higher duty soon to come into force. **Cement, clocks and watches, aniline dyes, window glass, Japan matches, needles, and sugar** of all kinds all show progress. On the other hand, **kerosene oil**, with the exception of the oil from Borneo, shows decreases, Russian oil having fallen to 10,105,886 gallons from 32,486,070 gallons, thus losing the ground gained during the last ten years.

### III.—Exports.

The value of **Exports** was estimated at Hk. tls. 214,181,584, or Hk. tls. 44,524,827 higher than in 1901. There is reason to believe that the trade might safely be estimated at a considerably higher figure, as the values adopted at the ports for Returns purposes appear in many instances to be too low. The export of **sesamum seed**, an increasing trade, rose from 297,365 to 882,302 piculs, due to the opening up of new country by the southern section of the Lu-Han Railway. **Beancake and beans**, for which there is a large demand from Japan, **bristles, cassia lignea, feathers, hemp, hides, nutgalls, oils, rhubarb, animal tallow, tobacco, and wool** all showed satisfactory advances. The demand for **straw braid** continues to improve. There was a large export of **raw cotton** to Japan, whence it returns in the shape of yarn, which is able to compete with the heavily taxed home-made product. The shrinkage in **mats**, from 33,334,410 to 24,002,140 pieces, is said to be due to quantities passing through Kwangchowwan by steamer under French flag to Macao, thus not passing through the returns of the Customs. The falling-off in **rush hats**, from 7,158,982 to 3,053,378 pieces, was due to a smaller demand for these goods, which are being replaced, especially in America, by hats made of wood shavings (*hinoki*) imported from Japan and plaited in Ningpo.

On the subject of the tea trade the report says:—

“Although the quality showed some improvement as compared with that of 1901, there seems a consensus of opinion amongst experts that the **teas** from all districts, except Ichang, have fallen off deplorably in quality and style during the last 20 years. The Chinese will take no advice, and refuse to listen to any suggestions regarding change in cultivation and manufacture. . . . Strong representations made in the spring induced the Chinese Government to reduce the export duty to one-half, but it still remains too high,



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being at least 12½ per cent. on common teas; and as likin and other internal taxes were not interfered with, although in some districts they almost equalled the export duty, it is to be feared that this half-hearted step towards putting China teas on a level with untaxed competitors will not be of much benefit to the trade. The transport of some 3 millions of pounds by the Siberian Railway was a new departure which will be watched with great interest, and one which might lead to important developments if the Chinese could be induced to pay more attention to quality. . . . The total export of all kinds of tea was about 31 per cent. higher than in 1901, but the shipments to Great Britain showed no improvement. The United States took 168,501 piculs of black tea, as against 96,820 piculs in the previous year, and 126,196 piculs of green tea, as against 86,747 piculs. This is explained by the fact that the war tax of 10 gold cents per pound was to be removed on the 1st January, 1903, and stocks had been reduced to a minimum to escape the expense of bonding. Moreover, it is anticipated that lower prices in consequence of the removal of the duty will increase the demand. Black tea *via* Kiakhta rose from 17,705 to 66,464 piculs, presumably because the route was safe again after the late disturbances. The export of brick tea showed a considerable advance, black brick having improved from 244,565 to 483,105 piculs, and green brick from 48,957 to 86,932 piculs. Congou tea consumed east of Irkutsk was formerly free from duty, which has now been imposed; the consequence has been that its place is being taken by brick tea, of which a finer quality is now demanded. Ceylon dust, which is blacker in colour than China dust, is imported to improve the quality and appearance of the bricks. . . ."

The year was not favourable to the silk industry. Warm weather in the early part of April hatched the eggs before the mulberry leaves were ready, and a large proportion of the young worms had to be destroyed. The weather during the rearing season was damp and cold, and the surviving worms, enfeebled by the disease which nothing has been done to check, and having no proper protection against variations in temperature, yielded a crop of silk poor in quality and quantity. The second crop, produced under more favourable conditions as regards weather, turned out unusually well; but the total production is said to have been very short of the average. Owing to a steady demand from Europe and America, the short outturn, and the fall in exchange, prices rose so much that the silver value of the trade exceeded that of the previous year. Steam filatures began the year under unfortunate circumstances, as the owners had made contracts for cocoons at reasonable prices early in March and April, and having sold part of their production forward at prices yielding a fair profit, found the cocoon contractors unable to carry out their contracts, owing to the unprecedented prices asked for cocoons by



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the farmers. Fortunately cocoons of the second crop were obtained at comparatively cheap rates, so that the final result of the year's working was fairly satisfactory.

**IV.—Foreign Trade by Ports.**

The following table shows the value for each Treaty port, of the net foreign imports (i.e., the value of the foreign goods imported, whether direct from foreign countries, or from other Treaty ports, less the value of the foreign goods re-exported during the year), and of the total exports of native produce from each Treaty port in the years 1901 and 1902:—

| Treaty Ports.        | 1901.                  |                             | 1902.                |                             |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
|                      | Net Foreign Imports.   | Exports of Native Produce.* | Net Foreign Imports. | Exports of Native Produce.* |
|                      | Hk. Taels.             | Hk. Taels.                  | Hk. Taels.           | Hk. Taels.                  |
| Newchwang ... ..     | 17,056,813             | 18,742,220                  | 18,185,793           | 17,524,967                  |
| Chinwangtao ... ..   | —                      | —                           | 2,494,798            | 1,148,671                   |
| Tientsin ... ..      | 27,227,438             | 10,154,106                  | 53,443,798           | 13,567,922                  |
| Ohefoo ... ..        | 19,236,466             | 11,871,001                  | 18,297,486           | 11,515,880                  |
| Kiaochow † ... ..    | 3,429,503              | 2,761,870                   | 5,845,394            | 2,269,392                   |
| Chung King ... ..    | 12,598,419             | 9,114,976                   | 12,885,586           | 8,639,092                   |
| Ichang ... ..        | 1,110,016              | 856,238                     | 813,978              | 1,291,288                   |
| Shasi ... ..         | 657,253                | 331,948                     | 915,564              | 486,290                     |
| Yochow ... ..        | 203,008                | 23,133                      | 499,041              | 330,856                     |
| Hankow ... ..        | 25,685,954             | 29,372,642                  | 26,871,607           | 41,226,299                  |
| Kiukiang ... ..      | 8,396,836              | 7,058,652                   | 9,195,229            | 9,424,960                   |
| Wuhu ... ..          | 5,851,240              | 5,516,815                   | 6,190,263            | 10,948,867                  |
| Nanking ... ..       | 1,799,646              | 2,191,597                   | 2,806,841            | 2,911,108                   |
| Chinkiang ... ..     | 16,637,156             | 5,043,541                   | 18,148,918           | 5,626,645                   |
| Shanghai ... ..      | 41,663,387             | 62,646,012                  | 53,394,947           | 76,832,103                  |
| Soochow ... ..       | 883,088                | 1,472,674                   | 483,210              | 1,449,086                   |
| Ningpo ... ..        | 9,568,960              | 4,560,928                   | 9,015,088            | 7,481,666                   |
| Hangchow ... ..      | 3,565,763              | 5,815,982                   | 3,660,386            | 7,125,445                   |
| Wenchow ... ..       | 705,369                | 366,900                     | 905,848              | 643,797                     |
| Santiao ... ..       | 25,542                 | 1,216,188                   | 12,738               | 1,494,863                   |
| Foochow ... ..       | 6,861,914              | 5,955,363                   | 6,642,695            | 7,035,992                   |
| Amoy ... ..          | 7,555,255              | 2,025,179                   | 10,069,692           | 2,236,547                   |
| Swatow ... ..        | 13,935,103             | 12,859,361                  | 14,428,617           | 11,714,032                  |
| Wuchow ... ..        | 5,552,443              | 1,851,333                   | 3,336,511            | 3,086,661                   |
| Samshui ... ..       | 1,552,065              | 1,012,661                   | 1,198,953            | 926,787                     |
| Kongmoon and Kumchuk | 2,096,001              | 232,916                     | 2,010,793            | 682,869                     |
| Canton ... ..        | 16,514,578             | 23,636,340                  | 16,504,924           | 39,490,965                  |
| Klungchow ... ..     | 2,293,073              | 2,129,368                   | 3,383,676            | 2,185,502                   |
| Pakhoi ... ..        | 2,093,586              | 2,105,605                   | 1,877,276            | 1,411,895                   |
| Kowloon † ... ..     | 18,956,231             | 22,919,708                  | 22,092,223           | 17,682,574                  |
| Lappa † ... ..       | 3,625,890              | 6,246,617                   | 5,570,095            | 5,928,178                   |
| Lungchow † ... ..    | 156,965                | 7,539                       | 70,881               | 6,178                       |
| Mengtsz † ... ..     | 3,748,339              | 3,066,934                   | 3,687,444            | 3,688,085                   |
| Szema † ... ..       | 239,381                | 35,268                      | 147,148              | 36,484                      |
| Tengyueh † ... ..    | —                      | —                           | 513,303              | 148,392                     |
| Total ... ..         | Hk. Taels. 280,472,693 | 263,101,600                 | 335,601,739          | 318,170,318                 |

\* Inclusive of exports to other Chinese ports.

† In the case of these ports the imports are styled "Foreign goods inwards" and the exports "Native goods outwards."



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In addition to the net *foreign* imports shown in the above table, the value of the net *native* imports for all the Treaty ports in 1902 was 136,259,955 Hk. taels, as compared with 125,454,462 Hk. taels in 1901. The values of the exports of native produce from each port given in the foregoing table include those sent abroad and those sent to other Chinese ports. In the returns under review these figures are not distinguished separately for each port, but the values of the total exports from all ports is stated to have been made up in 1901 and 1902 as follows:—

**Exports.**

| From Chinese Treaty Ports. |     |            |     | 1901.                 | 1902.       |
|----------------------------|-----|------------|-----|-----------------------|-------------|
|                            |     |            |     | Hk. Taels.            | Hk. Taels.  |
| Value of exports, abroad   | ... | ...        | ... | 169,656,757           | 214,181,584 |
| "                          | "   | home trade | ... | 93,444,843            | 103,988,734 |
| Total exports              |     |            |     | Hk. Taels 263,101,600 | 318,170,318 |

**V.—Foreign Trade by Countries.**

The following table shows the value of the imports (not deducting re-exports to foreign countries) into all the Treaty ports from and to the principal foreign countries in the years 1901 and 1902:—

| From and To—                | 1901.                                 |             | 1902.                                 |             |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
|                             | Imports<br>(including<br>re-exports). | Exports.    | Imports<br>(including<br>re-exports). | Exports.    |
|                             | Hk. Taels.                            | Hk. Taels.  | Hk. Taels.                            | Hk. Taels.  |
| United Kingdom ...          | 41,223,538                            | 8,561,045   | 57,624,610                            | 10,344,375  |
| Hong-Kong* ...              | 120,329,884                           | 71,435,103  | 133,524,169                           | 82,667,375  |
| India ...                   | 28,949,358                            | 3,148,369   | 33,037,439                            | 2,832,274   |
| Singapore and Straits ...   | 3,828,142                             | 2,684,700   | 4,108,926                             | 3,026,922   |
| Australia, New Zealand, &c. | 574,362                               | 173,424     | 301,838                               | 23,955      |
| South Africa and Mauritius  | —                                     | 299,772     | —                                     | 183,618     |
| British America ...         | 1,635,457                             | 181,348     | 2,832,511                             | 865,612     |
| <b>British Empire</b> ...   | 196,540,741                           | 86,483,761  | 231,429,493                           | 99,434,131  |
| Japan† ...                  | 32,567,656                            | 16,875,725  | 85,342,283                            | 28,728,294  |
| Europe (except Russia) ...  | 17,046,453                            | 29,268,913  | 18,484,678                            | 39,728,637  |
| United States of America... | 23,529,606                            | 16,572,988  | 30,138,713                            | 24,940,153  |
| Russian Empire‡ ...         | 3,360,179                             | 9,280,800   | 1,234,534                             | 10,911,606  |
| Macao ...                   | 1,868,086                             | 5,239,570   | 2,490,550                             | 4,972,068   |
| French Indo-China ...       | 887,459                               | 1,453,377   | 1,851,104                             | 1,202,363   |
| Corea ...                   | 513,516                               | 1,178,608   | 1,260,999                             | 1,043,423   |
| Other countries ...         | 826,039                               | 3,301,015   | 3,313,957                             | 3,220,906   |
| <b>Total</b> ...            | 277,189,785                           | 169,656,757 | 325,546,311                           | 214,181,584 |

\* The imports from Hong-Kong come originally from, and the exports to that Colony are further carried on to, the United Kingdom, America, Australia, India, Straits Settlements, and the Coast Ports of China.

† Including Formosa.

‡ Including Russian Manchuria.

NOTE.—The difference between the values of the total imports as given in this table, and those shown in the table on the previous page is explained by the fact that the figures in the above table only refer to the direct imports of foreign goods at each port from foreign countries, and omitting goods in transit to other China ports.



*The Foreign Trade and Shipping of China in 1902.***VI.—The Tea Export Trade.**

The report also gives particulars of the export of tea direct to foreign countries. The total quantity thus exported for the last four years is stated to have been as follows :—

|                                                                                                  | 1899.                    | 1900.                    | 1901.                    | 1902.                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                                                                                  | Piculs.                  | Piculs.                  | Piculs.                  | Piculs.                  |
| Black ... ..                                                                                     | 935,578                  | 863,374                  | 665,499                  | 687,288                  |
| Green ... ..                                                                                     | 213,798                  | 200,425                  | 189,430                  | 253,757                  |
| Dust ... ..                                                                                      | 1,288                    | 575                      | 972                      | 973                      |
| Brick ... ..                                                                                     | 474,026                  | 316,923                  | 293,522                  | 570,037                  |
| Tablet ... ..                                                                                    | 6,105                    | 3,027                    | 8,570                    | 7,156                    |
| <b>Total... ..</b>                                                                               | <b>1,630,795</b>         | <b>1,384,324</b>         | <b>1,157,993</b>         | <b>1,519,211</b>         |
| All kinds overland to Siberia and Russia from Hankow <i>via</i> the Han River and Fancheng... .. | 55,761                   | 89,138                   | 58,031                   | 31,334                   |
| <b>Grand total</b> { Piculs 1,686,556<br>Lbs. 224,874,000                                        | 1,686,556<br>224,874,000 | 1,473,462<br>196,462,000 | 1,216,024<br>162,137,000 | 1,550,545<br>206,739,000 |

The following table shows the countries of destination of all kinds of tea exported in the last two years—1901 and 1902 :—

| Exported to—                                               | 1901.                    | 1902.                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>British Empire—</b>                                     | Piculs.                  | Piculs.                  |
| United Kingdom ... ..                                      | 135,218                  | 116,317                  |
| Hong-Kong* ... ..                                          | 100,346                  | 100,574                  |
| India ... ..                                               | 10,584                   | 10,984                   |
| Singapore and Straits... ..                                | 4,245                    | 3,568                    |
| Australia ... ..                                           | 12,611                   | 713                      |
| South Africa and Mauritius ... ..                          | 12,392                   | 7,523                    |
| British America ... ..                                     | 7,584                    | 11,267                   |
| <b>Total British Empire</b> ... ..                         | <b>282,780</b>           | <b>251,046</b>           |
| <b>Russian Empire—</b>                                     |                          |                          |
| <i>Via</i> Odessa, Batoum, &c. ... ..                      | 241,653                  | 206,699                  |
| Overland <i>via</i> Kiakhta ... ..                         | 146,431                  | 403,648                  |
| Russian Manchuria† ... ..                                  | 206,650†                 | 272,546†                 |
| Overland from Hankow ... ..                                | 58,031                   | 31,334                   |
| <b>Total, Russian Empire</b> ... ..                        | <b>651,765</b>           | <b>914,227</b>           |
| United States of America ... ..                            | 183,578                  | 294,697                  |
| Europe (except Russia and United Kingdom) ... ..           | 51,835                   | 54,316                   |
| Other countries ... ..                                     | 46,066                   | 36,259                   |
| <b>Total ... ..</b> { Piculs 1,216,024<br>Lbs. 162,137,000 | 1,216,024<br>162,137,000 | 1,550,545<br>206,739,000 |

\* Including tea exported to Hong-Kong from Kowloon by junk, which amounted to 49,558 piculs in 1901 and 23,149 piculs in 1902.

† Chiefly brick tea.



*The Foreign Trade and Shipping of China in 1902.***VII.—Shipping at Treaty Ports in 1902.**

With regard to the shipping at the various Treaty ports, the following table shows the number and tonnage of the shipping (steamers and sailing vessels) entered and cleared at the Chinese Treaty ports in 1900 and 1901, distinguishing the principal nationalities:—

| Flag.                            | 1901.  |            | 1902.  |            |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
|                                  | No.    | Tons.      | No.    | Tons.      |
| British ... ..                   | 25,012 | 26,151,332 | 24,758 | 26,950,202 |
| German ... ..                    | 6,641  | 7,542,829  | 6,046  | 7,220,146  |
| Japanese ... ..                  | 6,115  | 5,518,376  | 6,898  | 7,350,515  |
| French ... ..                    | 1,208  | 733,041    | 1,511  | 833,759    |
| American ... ..                  | 1,241  | 898,063    | 1,295  | 493,831    |
| Swedish and Norwegian ... ..     | 339    | 345,649    | 953    | 867,537    |
| Russian ... ..                   | 787    | 407,989    | 1,107  | 603,510    |
| All other foreign vessels ... .. | 886    | 384,565    | 628    | 329,420    |
| Total foreign vessels ... ..     | 42,229 | 41,981,844 | 43,196 | 44,648,920 |
| Chinese shipping* ... ..         | 14,694 | 6,089,654  | 18,102 | 8,931,652  |
| Chinese junks† ... ..            | 7,921  | 345,170    | 8,201  | 409,430    |
| Total, Chinese ... ..            | 22,615 | 6,434,824  | 26,303 | 9,341,082  |
| Grand total ... ..               | 64,844 | 48,416,668 | 69,499 | 53,990,002 |

\* Vessels of the foreign type owned by Chinese, and sailing under the Chinese flag.

† Exclusive of the junk shipping at Kowloon, Lappa, Mengtaz, Chung King, Soochow, and Hangchow.

The chief feature of the above table, comparing the figures of 1902 with those of 1901, is the remarkable increase of Japanese shipping. The growth in the tonnage of Swedish and Norwegian and Russian shipping may also be noticed.

**VIII.—Share of the United Kingdom in the Trade of China.**

The following table shows the predominant share which the United Kingdom holds in the total volume of the trade and shipping at the Treaty ports of the Chinese Empire, and in the dues and duties paid at those ports, as compared with other nations in the year 1902:—



*The Foreign Trade and Shipping of China in 1902.*

|                              | Tonnage<br>employed. | Share of<br>foreign and<br>coasting<br>trade. | Share of<br>transit<br>trade. | Duties paid<br>on cargoes<br>(foreign<br>and coast-<br>ing trade). | Tonnage<br>dues<br>paid. |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                              | Per cent.            | Per cent.                                     | Per cent.                     | Per cent.                                                          | Per cent.                |
| British ... ..               | 49.9                 | 47.4                                          | 15.2                          | 51.3                                                               | 47.1                     |
| German ... ..                | 13.4                 | 8.9                                           | 2.2                           | 10.3                                                               | 17.1                     |
| Japanese ... ..              | 13.6                 | 8.0                                           | .6                            | 10.4                                                               | 16.0                     |
| All other foreign nations... | 5.8                  | 6.7                                           | 56.4*                         | 8.2                                                                | 14.0                     |
|                              | 82.7                 | 71.0                                          | 74.4                          | 80.2                                                               | 94.2                     |
| Chinese ... ..               | 17.3                 | 29.0                                          | 25.6                          | 19.8                                                               | 5.8                      |
|                              | 100.0                | 100.0                                         | 100.0                         | 100.0                                                              | 100.0                    |

\* Chiefly American, French, and some trade in transit from Tientsin not distinguished, but partly British.

### TRANSIT TRAFFIC OVER THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA IN 1901 AND 1902.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul at Panama, the following report on the transit traffic of the Isthmus of Panama for the years 1901 and 1902:—

“The transit traffic of the Isthmus of Panama may be said to be confined at the present time exclusively to the trade between New York, England, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, and the Pacific Ports of Mexico, the Republics of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador), and of the South American Republics of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, and to a certain amount of the trade between San Francisco and New York, consisting of transcontinental freight originating in the United States, which is forwarded by way of the Isthmus in consequence of the low rates of freight offered, the time occupied in transit being of secondary consideration for the class of freight shipped by this route.

“On the Pacific coast the steamship lines engaged in the Isthmian transit trade are:—The Pacific Mail Steamship Company (American) from San Francisco, Mexican and Central American ports; the Pacific Steam Navigation Company (British), and the Compania Sud Americana de Vapores (Chilian) from Valparaiso and other Chilian ports, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

“On the Atlantic coast trading to Colon are the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from Southampton, the Leyland and Harrison Lines from Liverpool, representing the British trade; the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique from Havre, Bordeaux and St. Nazaire, representing the French trade; the Hamburg American Line from Hamburg, representing the German trade; the Compania Transatlantica de Barcelona from Barcelona, representing the Spanish trade; and the Panama Railroad Company's Steamship Line from New York, representing the trade with the United States of America.



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*Transit Traffic over the Isthmus of Panama in 1901 and 1902.*

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"Until September, 1902, La Veloce Steamship Line from Genoa, represented the Italian trade, when the service was discontinued, owing to the fact, apparently, that the class of steamer in the trade could not be run to Colon profitably. . . .

"The outcome of the still pending negotiations for the construction of the Inter-oceanic Canal is, unquestionably, the subject of prevailing interest at the present moment on the Isthmus of Panama, and the Colombian Congress, which will shortly be in session at Bogota, has been avowedly convened with a primary view to the immediate consideration of the Canal Treaty, as presented to that assembly by the Government of the United States. Should the Treaty be approved of in its present form, or with such modifications only as should continue to render it acceptable at Washington, an era of unparalleled prosperity should arise on the Isthmus of Panama, far transcending in its effects, the evanescent period of feverish and speculative excitement with which the first inception of the gigantic enterprise in question, must always be lamentably associated.

"Although doubtless the immense quantities of machinery, and supplies of every description required for the actual construction of the canal, and for the use of the large army of labourers and other employees engaged upon the work, will be drawn almost exclusively from the United States, it is not unreasonable to suppose that a considerable impetus will nevertheless be given to the general trade of the Isthmus, which should be stimulated in a variety of ways, not only in the increased resident population, which the commencement of the work would immediately entail, but also by reason of the augmented confidence which mercantile houses, both at home and abroad, would be disposed to place in the future political stability of the Isthmus.

"Apart from the disastrous consequences to the country at large, resulting from three years of internecine warfare, such a prolonged period of hostilities is naturally productive of a feeling of anxiety in the minds of merchants trading with the country, leading to a disinclination to enter into new business, which, once conceived, is not to be readily laid aside. But should the construction of the canal be resumed in earnest, it may be confidently anticipated, in accordance with a proviso already embodied in the text of the Treaty now submitted for approval, that both the Republic of Colombia as owner of the soil, and the United States of America as the promoters and actual constructors of the canal, will mutually assist one another in the future maintenance of peace upon the Isthmus. Such action would be indispensably necessary to ensure the satisfactory completion of this most important undertaking within the prescribed period of time, and would incidentally have the beneficial effect of producing an immediate feeling of increased confidence in mercantile circles, which under other circumstances might have been slow in returning."

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## TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

### SELANGOR.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, a copy of the following notification (No. 293 of 1903) which was published in the "Selangor Government Gazette" on 16th May last.

**Additional  
Export Duty  
on Tin-ore.**

"Under the provisions of Section 3 of the 'Customs Duties Enactment, 1898,' the Resident, with the approval of the Resident-General, hereby imposes, as from 1st June, 1903, a duty 30 dols. per pikul upon all tin-ore exported from the State, other than tin-ore exported under such guarantees as the Resident may require that it will be smelted in the Colony."

"The duty hereby imposed is to be paid in addition to the duty on tin-ore at present in force."

NOTE.—A pikul = 133½ lbs.

### FRANCE (MADAGASCAR).

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a Decree, published in the French "Journal Officiel" of the 13th June, authorising the importation into Madagascar of tobacco in leaves or stalks, and fixing the import duty thereon at 50 frs. per 100 kilogs. (1l. 0s. 4d. per cwt.).

### SPAIN.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 16th June contains a Royal Order declaring 36·25 per cent. to have been the average rate of exchange (premium of exchange on Paris) during the first fortnight of the month, and that the corresponding reduction in the rate of Customs duty payable in gold during the second fortnight of the same will be 26 per cent.

### TURKEY—GREECE.

With reference to the notice published at p. 166 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 23rd April last, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a despatch from H.M. Minister at Athens, reporting that the ratifications of the Turco-Greek Commercial Treaty were exchanged at Constantinople on the 6th June.



### *Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.*

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The following is the substance of some Decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington for the guidance of United States Customs officers and others:—

##### **Customs Decisions.**

*Tile mantels or fireplaces.*—Mantels or fireplaces made from decorated tiles are not dutiable as tiles. Such articles, being a manufacture of earthenware tiles, are dutiable at the rate of 60 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 96 of the Tariff, as manufactures of decorated earthenware, by whatever name known.

*Raffia cloth*, composed exclusively of the separated fibre of the raffia palm, is dutiable at the rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 449 of the Tariff, as a manufacture of palm leaf, and not under paragraph 347 as a manufacture of vegetable fibre.

*Phosphor tin*, an article made by adding a small percentage of phosphorus to tin, being a species or form of tin, is entitled to free entry under paragraph 683 of the Tariff.

*Plaster of Paris vases and statuettes.*—Vases and statuettes made of plaster of Paris are dutiable at the rate of 35 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 450 of the Tariff, as manufactures of plaster of Paris. Such merchandise is not dutiable under paragraph 95, as earthenware vases and statuettes.

*Fruit, damaged while in transit to the United States* so as to become utterly worthless and of no pecuniary value, is not to be treated as a dutiable importation, but allowance may be made as if such goods had never arrived at all.

#### VENEZUELA.

The United States Advance Sheets of Consular Reports for 29th May contain a report from the United States Consul at Maracaibo, to the effect that a Decision of the Venezuelan Minister of Finance places common cotton sailcloth, self-finished, not exceeding ten threads in the warp in a square of 5 millimetres (0.19 inch), in the fourth class of the Tariff; exceeding ten threads, in the fifth class. Goods in the fourth class pay 75 centimes per kilog.; those in the fifth class pay 1.25 bolivars per kilog.



## SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

### GRENADA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, a copy of a regulation passed by the Governor of Grenada regarding ships carrying explosives and entering the harbour of St. George. Regulation No. 9 of 31st August, 1891, is rescinded and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:—

**Harbour  
Regulation for  
Ships carrying  
Explosives.**

" 1. Masters having powder or other explosive on board of their ships shall fly the burgee at the fore and shall immediately report the same to the Port officer when he boards.

" 2. If such powder or other explosive, or any part thereof, is intended to be landed in this Colony, the ship shall not be allowed to enter the inner harbour until it has been duly landed at the place appointed by the Treasurer for that purpose, and subject to such precautions for the public safety as he may direct.

" 3. If no portion of such powder or other explosive is to be landed in this Colony, or in cases where the portion intended to be so landed has been duly dealt with as described in the foregoing regulation, the ship may be allowed to enter the inner harbour and to anchor and discharge cargo therein, provided that the said powder or other explosive then on board is stored in a properly constructed and secure magazine, certified for use for such purposes by the proper authority in the United Kingdom, or in the case of foreign ships, by such authority in the country to which the ship belongs as may be approved of by the Governor.

" 4. Nothing in these regulations shall apply to recognised ships of war."

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### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul at Trieste, respecting the Austrian-Lloyd Steam Navigation Company's trade with the Persian Gulf, in which it is stated that the Austrian export to Persia (by direct line) is sensibly increasing. Whereas, in 1901, its value came to 10,918*l.*, in 1902 it rose to 19,719*l.* (nearly double).

The Consul adds that the Austrian-Lloyds steamer "Urano," in order to develop this trade, was to make a trial voyage to Persia, leaving Trieste on the 15th June. This steamer was to sail direct for the Persian Gulf, touching Port Said, Suez, Aden, Basreh, and Bushire, and carrying sugar, coffee, paper, and wood (for the manufactory of date cases). On her return voyage, she will carry a full cargo of dates.

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*Shipping and Transport.***BULGARIA.**

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a despatch from H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Sofia, reporting that the harbour works at Bourgas being completed, the port was declared open on the 31st of May last. Nothing now remains to be done but to build accommodation for merchandise on the quays, and this, it is understood, will be taken in hand at once.

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**MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.**  
**UNITED KINGDOM.**

A formal investigation was held at Chester-le-Street, Durham, on the 16th and 17th June, into the circumstances attending the explosion of a boiler which occurred on the 12th April last at Chester South Moor Colliery.

The Court found that the explosion was caused by the fractured plate of the boiler having been so reduced in thickness by corrosion as to be unable to withstand the usual working pressure. The owners of the colliery were held responsible for the negligence of their engineer, and were ordered to pay 25*l.* towards the cost of the investigation.

**CANADA.**

According to the "Canadian Engineer" for June, one of the most interesting reports issued by the Department of Mines for Ontario is that on peat fuel, which contains the results of investigations by an officer of the Department, who has made a special study of the subject. It contains a great deal of information of interest in view of the disastrous strike of last year among the coal miners. The possibilities of peat manufacture in Canada are said to be limitless, and if properly taken up might place Canada in an independent position as to fuel supply. Speaking of cost, the report says it costs about 1 dol. per ton to produce peat briquettes in Ontario, and after allowing a reasonable margin for profit, interest on investment, &c., it can be sold at the place of production for 3 dols. a ton. Putting the value of the peat at two-thirds that of coal, at 3 dols. a ton, its cost would be equivalent to anthracite coal at 4.50 dols., and at 4 dols. per ton to anthracite at 6 dols. per ton. Such figures at once bring peat fuel into the economic arena, the report adds, as it may be doubted whether, with the effective control now exercised by the trusts over production and sale of anthracite, we are likely to see it again drop to a lower level than 6 dols. per ton.



*Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.***AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.**

The Board of Trade have received from the office of the Agent-General for Western Australia a communication stating that the crushing returns for the month of May, 1903, for all gold mining companies in the State are as follows, the figures for May, 1902, being added for the purposes of comparison:—

| —                        | May, 1902.           | May, 1903.   |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Ore treated ... ..       | 151,538 tons         | 169,558 tons |
| Yield of gold ... ..     | 171,818 ozs.         | 178,287 ozs. |
| Average yield per ton... | 1 oz. 2 dwt. 16 gra. | 1 oz. 1 dwt. |

**TRANSVAAL.**

The "Transvaal Government Gazette" of 29th May publishes the text of a draft Ordinance, which it is proposed to introduce into the Legislative Council, to regulate the trade in diamonds in the Transvaal.

The "Gazette" containing the above may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

**RUSSIA-MANCHURIA.**

H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg has forwarded a translation of an extract from the "Birjevaya Viedomosti" of 18th/31st May, to the effect that a large iron foundry is about to be started by a private company near the station of Imam on the South Ussuri Railway on the Manchurian Frontier, with the object of working up iron ore which is very abundant in Northern Manchuria, but which up to now has not been worked. In view of the cheapness of Chinese labour the "Birjevaya Viedomosti" predicts a great future for the undertaking.

**PORTUGAL.**

According to a report from the French Minister in Portugal, a group of capitalists have just started, under the name of the "Companhia Portuguesa do Carvão," a company for the development of the important coal deposits in the Douro district, near Oporto.

It is recognised, on examination, that very advantageous conditions prevail in this carboniferous region, by reason of the quantity



### *Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.*

of coal to be raised, the low cost of transport, and the economical methods available for development.

The company intend to sell the coal at moderate prices, and this enterprise is expected to prove of great assistance to Portuguese industries generally.

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York) of 30th May states that the recent discoveries of petroleum in Alaska promise to be of considerable importance, and the indications point to the possible location of a large field. The oil field is near the mouth of the Copper River, in the neighbourhood of Controller Bay, in a vicinity where early explorers found some indications of oil in the shape of springs. A well sunk in this vicinity struck the oil-sand at a depth of 265 feet, the petroleum found being of an excellent quality, samples yielding a high proportion of refined oil, with a very small amount of residue. At another point, not far distant, an oil has been found which, in its crude condition and without any refining, is a fair lubricating oil with high flashing point, and, like the other, very little tarry residue. The district is now being explored by expert oil men from California and from the East. A considerable extent of the land has been located, and during the present season a number of rigs will be erected and wells put down, so that probably before the beginning of another year an approximate idea of the extent and value of the field will be obtained.

### YARNS AND TEXTILES.

#### EGYPT.

The report of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt for the year 1902 states that a prominent feature of the textile trade last year has been the enormous increase of competition, due to the establishment in Cairo and Alexandria of a number of small merchants who, in order to obtain a footing in the market, have sold very cheaply and given more facilities for credit than the general state of the market has warranted. Consequently, although the consumption is no doubt increasing, though unfortunately not at the same rate as the supply, the margin of profit has been gradually reduced, and in order to keep up the turn-over it is to be feared that far too much credit has been given, and that the position in the summer of 1903 will be a strained one.

As to Continental competition, it can be seen from the Customs returns that Italian and German goods are finding a considerable outlet in the Egyptian market, and the finer class of printed cotton goods from Mulhouse is appreciated as much as ever.

Yorkshire-made goods have held their own as usual, and especially the finer qualities of wide venetians; corkscrews and mixtures have sold exceedingly well. Meltons have again done badly, except in very low qualities, for which there is always a ready sale in small quantities for lining tarbouches and sundry other uses.



## AGRICULTURE.

### UNITED KINGDOM.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 20th June were as follow:—

|        |     |     |     |      |     |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Wheat  | ... | ... | ... | 27s. | 6d. |
| Barley | ... | ... | ... | 20s. | 7d. |
| Oats   | ... | ... | ... | 18s. | 3d. |

For further particulars see p. 615.

A statement is published on p. 616, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 20th June, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

### NATAL.

The "Natal Government Gazette" of 12th May contains the text of a Proclamation (No. 58 of 1903) by the Governor of Natal to make provision for the preservation of timber and bush growing on the lands in that country belonging to the Crown, for regulating the granting of licenses for cutting or using the same, or leasing the timber or bush growing on such lands.

The "Gazette" containing these regulations may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

The "Natal Government Gazette" of the 19th May publishes the text of a Bill, which it is intended to introduce into Parliament during the present session, "to aid and encourage the agricultural development of Natal."

For the administration of this Act there is to be a Land Board which may from time to time frame regulations.

Amongst the provisions for promoting the success of settlements, it is provided that the Board shall contribute towards the capital outlay a sum not exceeding two-thirds thereof.

The Government in Council may at any time, on the recommendation of the Board, offer bonuses for the export of approved agricultural products, such bonuses being paid from moneys provided for the purpose by Parliament.

At such time as this Act may come into operation the Land Acquisition Act, 1902, will be repealed.

The Gazette containing the full text of the Bill may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).



### *Agriculture.*

#### ST. LUCIA.

In the report on St. Lucia for the year 1901 recently issued by the Colonial Office, it is stated that an Agricultural Show was held at Dennery, and lectures with demonstrations in bee-keeping have been given throughout the Island with good results.

On the experimental plots about the 'Colony very instructive results are being obtained in the demonstration of proper methods of cultivating various tropical plants, particularly cocoa and cotton, and planters are beginning to appreciate the value of these plots, and improvements in cultivation on several plantations are noted.

In the same report it is stated that a portion of the lands of the "Union" Estate (an abandoned sugar estate purchased by the Crown from the proceeds of the sale of Crown Lands) together with the buildings thereon were handed over to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the establishment of an agricultural school, from which it is hoped much benefit will accrue to the rising generation of planters and peasants by means of the tuition to be given at that institution. The remainder of the land is to be cut up into small holdings and sold to peasants.

#### EGYPT.

The report for 1902 of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt states that the business in Egyptian cotton in 1901-02 was a distinctly brisk one. At the commencement of the season there was a total available quantity of 6,720,000 cantars,\* and yet this supply, so ample by all precedents, was almost entirely used up.

A point of interest as touching the supplies of the present season (1902-03) is the very largely increased growth of the Yannovitch quality, causing a consequent decrease in the growth of Mit-Affi quality.

This decrease is estimated at about 400,000 cantars beyond the decrease through defective crop, and it is important, as Mit-Affi quality is the staple of the Egyptian cotton industry, Yannovitch being useful for fine specialities only.

Several explanations have been suggested for the unexpected short yield of the crop. The sowing season was rather a cold one, and the crop made a poor start. The late rising of the Nile, following upon an existing scarcity of water, necessitated a prolongation of the rotations, severe in their intervals at a time when the crop was especially requiring water. These conditions, owing to favourable growing weather, did not prevent the plants

\* Cantar = 99 lbs.



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### *Agriculture.*

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from making a good show of fruiting, and the heat forced on an early ripening, but the plants had developed without vigour and, when struck by fogs, were the more liable to damage; and this damage became more and more apparent as the harvesting proceeded.

The weaker condition of the crop is perhaps further shown by the inferior oil yield from the seed as compared with that of previous years.

The total exports of cotton-seed for the year ending 31st December, 1902, were 381,548 tons, as against 398,804 tons in 1901 and 378,702 tons in 1900.

The present crop will be considerably less than that of 1901-1902, but owing to good prices the cotton crop was again rushed forward, and the deficit will only be apparent in the figures for 1903.

The seed-crushing industry has increased owing to the new mill at Kafr-el-Zayat. The production of oil when mills are in full swing is now larger than the requirements of the country, but speculation in cotton-seed has at times forced prices above the level of those which the mills can afford to pay, and the result is that American cotton-oil has been imported. The cakes have all been exported to Great Britain, as local farmers will not use them.

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### FRANCE.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Bordeaux, stating that, from the latest reports, the plum crop in the valleys and low lying districts of the Department of the Lot et Garonne, Dordogne, Lot, Lot et Tarn, has been completely destroyed owing to the destructive frosts of 17th, 18th and 19th of April last. On the hills and a few favoured spots there is still some fruit left, so that a very short yield is to be expected this year.

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### UNITED KINGDOM.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 18th June was  
**Cotton Statistics.** 41,414 and the number imported during the 25 weeks ended the 18th June was 2,120,236.

As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 18th June, 12,316 bales, and for the 25 weeks, 238,956.

For further details see p. 615.

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*Miscellaneous.***CYPRUS.**

The following tables, showing the value of the principal articles imported into and exported from Cyprus during the 12 months ended 31st December last, are compiled from official figures published in the "Cyprus Gazette" for the 22nd May, 1903, the corresponding figures for 1901 being added for purposes of comparison :—

**Imports.**

|                                         | 1901.            | 1902.          |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                                         | £                | £              |
| Corn and grain... ..                    | 60,000           | 172,000        |
| Articles of food and drink ... ..       | 45,000           | 47,000         |
| Cotton piece-goods ... ..               | 36,000           | 21,000         |
| " yarn and thread ... ..                | 22,000           | 16,000         |
| Olive oil ... ..                        | 13,000           | 15,000         |
| Tobacco ... ..                          | 14,000           | 13,000         |
| Timber ... ..                           | 14,000           | 12,000         |
| Woollen manufactures ... ..             | 17,000           | 12,000         |
| Leather and leather manufactures ... .. | 21,000           | 10,000         |
| Soap ... ..                             | 9,000            | 8,000          |
| Haberdashery and millinery... ..        | 7,000            | 6,000          |
| Petroleum ... ..                        | 6,000            | 5,000          |
| Other articles of merchandise ... ..    | 100,000          | 66,000         |
| Specie ... ..                           | 88,000           | 31,000         |
| <b>Total imports ... ..</b>             | <b>£ 452,000</b> | <b>434,000</b> |

**Exports.**

|                                      | 1901.            | 1902.          |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                                      | £                | £              |
| Carobs ... ..                        | 113,000          | 104,000        |
| Animals, living ... ..               | 17,000           | 33,000         |
| Wines ... ..                         | 32,000           | 30,000         |
| Fruit ... ..                         | 31,000           | 19,000         |
| Silk cocoons ... ..                  | 19,000           | 14,000         |
| Hides and skins ... ..               | 10,000           | 11,000         |
| Wool ... ..                          | 6,000            | 6,000          |
| Cheese ... ..                        | 5,000            | 5,000          |
| Cotton, raw ... ..                   | 5,000            | 4,000          |
| Corn and grain ... ..                | 36,000           | 4,000          |
| Other articles of merchandise ... .. | 37,000           | 41,000         |
| Specie ... ..                        | 78,000           | 57,000         |
| <b>Total exports ... ..</b>          | <b>£ 889,000</b> | <b>328,000</b> |

**RUSSIA.**

The St. Petersburg "Viedomosti" of 18th/31st May states that, according to official statistics, the value of goods imported at Russian ports on the Pacific Ocean has fallen from 51,157,000 roubles in 1900, to 49,827,000 roubles in 1901, and to 34,704,000 roubles in 1902.

Rouble = 2s. 1½d.



*Miscellaneous.***SPAIN.**

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of the 14th June contains a Royal Order approving the regulations, which are printed in full, for carrying out the terms of the law regarding industrial property (patents, trademarks, firm names, &c.), which was promulgated by decree of 16th May ("Gaceta" of 18th May, 1902).

The "Gaceta" containing the above may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

**FRANCE—NEW CALEDONIA.**

The "Politique Coloniale," of 8th/9th June, states that according to official statistics, the value of the imports into New Caledonia amounted to 13,446,000 fr. (538,000*l.*) in 1902, as compared with 13,675,000 fr. (547,000*l.*) in 1901, and the exports to 12,283,000 fr. (491,000*l.*), as compared with 11,050,000 fr. (442,000*l.*).

The exports of coffee during each of the last four years were as follow:—

|         |     | Kilogs. |  |          | Kilogs. |
|---------|-----|---------|--|----------|---------|
| 1899... | ... | 306,197 | \| | 1901 ... | 443,726 |
| 1900... | ... | 275,929 | \| | 1902 ... | 548,305 |

The quantities of ore exported during the years 1900–1902, were as shown in the following table:—

|        |     |     |     |     | 1900.       | 1901.       | 1902.       |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|        |     |     |     |     | Kilogs.     | Kilogs.     | Kilogs.     |
| Nickel | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100,318,686 | 132,814,356 | 129,653,090 |
| Cobalt | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,437,691   | 3,123,150   | 7,512,230   |
| Chrome | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10,474,377  | 17,451,192  | 10,281,000  |

Kilog. = 2·2 lbs.

**REPORTS OF BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.**

**Manchester.**—At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce held on the 17th June, the appointment of D. N. Antonio Zammet, as honorary Consul for Spain, in Manchester, was reported.

A letter from the chemical trade section of the London Chamber of Commerce, recommending the compulsory marking of all mixtures of white or red lead other than genuine with the word "reduced," was remitted to the chemical section of the Chamber.



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*Reports of British Chambers of Commerce.*

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The action of the African Committee with respect to the town tolls introduced in Lagos, was approved.

A letter from the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce regarding the difficulties of trade mark protection in China was referred to the committee concerned.

A letter from the Chief Commission in Baluchistan was submitted enclosing for the inspection of the Chamber a few samples of cloth of Russian manufacture known in Persia as "Mahout Shikan." This cloth, it was stated, is imported in small but increasing quantities to Quetta *via* the Nushki-Seistan trade route, being much appreciated by the natives. Particulars of its sale price and width were given. The Board directed that the samples and particulars should be shown to anyone interested who might call at the offices of the Chamber.

Other subjects brought to the notice of the Chamber were: the Reform of the Indian Customs Service, International Telegraph Conference, and British Colonial Patent Law.

**Newcastle.**—The monthly meeting of the Council of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce was held at the Guildhall recently, Mr. R. Knothe presiding.

The sub-committee of the Council on the new Russian Tariff submitted a report which was adopted, and it was agreed that the sub-committee should continue its efforts, and that the secretary should prepare a list of present and proposed duties, and of the approximate present prices of goods and the percentage which will be added by the new Tariff as regards Tyneside articles.

It was agreed to invite a deputation of the Paris Chamber of Commerce to visit Newcastle at a date to be mutually agreed upon.

A letter was read in reference to the want of berth room on the Quay, and it was agreed to approach the Trade and Commerce Committee of the Corporation on the matter.

A letter was read from the London Chamber of Commerce in reference to the adulteration and marking of white and red lead and it was agreed to support the petition of the London Chamber to the President of the Board of Trade, asking that steps be taken to remedy misrepresentation and fraud.

**Blackburn.**—The monthly meeting of the Blackburn and district Chamber of Commerce was held on the 10th June, the President, Mr. H. Harrison, occupying the chair.

It was decided that the movement for closer union with France should have the support of the Chamber.

Mr. Whittaker gave an account of the deputation to Lord George Hamilton on the subject of the Indian import and excise duties.

Other matters considered were: Scales and Weights in Cotton Mills, the German Tariff, and Mr. Chamberlain's suggested Tariff Scheme.

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## STATISTICAL TABLES.

## Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 25 Weeks ended 18th June, 1903.

|                      | Week ended<br>18th June,<br>1903. | 25 Weeks<br>ended<br>18th June,<br>1903. | Week ended<br>18th June,<br>1903. | 25 Weeks<br>ended<br>18th June,<br>1903. |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                      | IMPORTS.<br>(Bales.)              |                                          | EXPORTS.<br>(Bales.)              |                                          |
|                      | No.                               | No.                                      | No.                               | No.                                      |
| American ... ..      | 24,885                            | 1,644,878                                | 7,529                             | 120,918                                  |
| Brasilian ... ..     | 5,576                             | 118,559                                  | 2,119                             | 24,161                                   |
| East Indian ... ..   | 6,607                             | 91,878                                   | 1,230                             | 21,190                                   |
| Egyptian ... ..      | 3,413                             | 240,461                                  | 1,178                             | 67,915                                   |
| Miscellaneous ... .. | 933                               | 24,460                                   | 260                               | 4,772                                    |
| Total ... ..         | 41,414                            | 2,120,236                                | 12,316                            | 238,956                                  |

## Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,\* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 20th June, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

|                                   |  | Average Price. |    |         |    |       |    |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|----|---------|----|-------|----|
|                                   |  | Wheat.         |    | Barley. |    | Oats. |    |
| Week ended 20th June, 1903 ... .. |  | s.             | d. | s.      | d. | s.    | d. |
| Corresponding week in—            |  |                |    |         |    |       |    |
| 1896 ... ..                       |  | 24             | 10 | 19      | 5  | 14    | 10 |
| 1897 ... ..                       |  | 27             | 0  | 19      | 9  | 18    | 6  |
| 1898 ... ..                       |  | 40             | 8  | 24      | 3  | 20    | 7  |
| 1899 ... ..                       |  | 25             | 7  | 26      | 2  | 17    | 11 |
| 1900 ... ..                       |  | 25             | 9  | 23      | 5  | 18    | 11 |
| 1901 ... ..                       |  | 27             | 6  | 23      | 2  | 20    | 3  |
| 1902 ... ..                       |  | 30             | 6  | 23      | 5  | 23    | 0  |

\* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.



## Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 20th June, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

|                                           |            | Week ended<br>20th June,<br>1903. | Correspond-<br>ing week<br>in 1902. |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Animals, living :—</b>                 |            |                                   |                                     |
| Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves ... ..      | Number.    | 10,119                            | 7,941                               |
| Sheep and lambs ... ..                    | "          | 2,432                             | 2,830                               |
| Swine ... ..                              | "          | —                                 | —                                   |
| Horses ... ..                             | "          | 577                               | 968                                 |
| <b>Fresh meat :—</b>                      |            |                                   |                                     |
| Beef ... ..                               | Cwts.      | 89,896                            | 80,601                              |
| Mutton ... ..                             | "          | 142,169                           | 110,599                             |
| Pork ... ..                               | "          | 10,636                            | 6,742                               |
| <b>Salted or preserved meat :—</b>        |            |                                   |                                     |
| Bacon ... ..                              | Cwts.      | 100,244                           | 100,656                             |
| Beef ... ..                               | "          | 3,856                             | 2,283                               |
| Hams ... ..                               | "          | 82,306                            | 26,871                              |
| Pork ... ..                               | "          | 7,512                             | 5,808                               |
| Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...   | "          | 17,288                            | 16,957                              |
| Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting | "          | 20,106                            | 37,881                              |
| <b>Dairy produce and substitutes :—</b>   |            |                                   |                                     |
| Butter ... ..                             | Cwts.      | 88,779                            | 85,181                              |
| Margarine ... ..                          | "          | 16,262                            | 21,948                              |
| Cheese ... ..                             | "          | 78,471                            | 60,974                              |
| Milk, fresh, in cans or drums ... ..      | "          | 2                                 | —                                   |
| " cream ... ..                            | "          | 208                               | 113                                 |
| " condensed ... ..                        | "          | 18,028                            | 15,882                              |
| " preserved, other kinds ... ..           | "          | 15                                | 33                                  |
| Eggs ... ..                               | Grt. Hndr. | 466,126                           | 571,168                             |
| Poultry and game ... ..                   | Value £    | 8,781                             | 14,213                              |
| Rabbits, dead (not tinned) ... ..         | Cwts.      | 4,757                             | 1,886                               |
| Lard ... ..                               | "          | 58,898                            | 86,948                              |
| <b>Corn, grain, meal and flour :—</b>     |            |                                   |                                     |
| Wheat ... ..                              | Cwts.      | 2,127,248                         | 1,983,226                           |
| Wheat-meal and flour ... ..               | "          | 831,588                           | 872,923                             |
| Barley ... ..                             | "          | 295,980                           | 826,686                             |
| Oats ... ..                               | "          | 237,118                           | 400,725                             |
| Peas ... ..                               | "          | 88,486                            | 88,660                              |
| Beans ... ..                              | "          | 18,981                            | 87,360                              |
| Maize or Indian corn ... ..               | "          | 418,822                           | 1,203,069                           |
| <b>Fruit, raw :—</b>                      |            |                                   |                                     |
| Apples ... ..                             | Cwts.      | 18,788                            | 216                                 |
| Apricots and peaches ... ..               | "          | 805                               | 339                                 |
| Bananas ... ..                            | Bunches.   | 78,975                            | 48,162                              |
| Cherries ... ..                           | Cwts.      | 13,651                            | 12,220                              |
| Currants ... ..                           | "          | 859                               | 500                                 |
| Gooseberries ... ..                       | "          | 3,008                             | 4,888                               |
| Grapes ... ..                             | "          | 362                               | 267                                 |
| Lemons ... ..                             | "          | 23,888                            | 13,688                              |
| Oranges ... ..                            | "          | 57,439                            | 71,507                              |
| Pears ... ..                              | "          | 100                               | 50                                  |
| Plums ... ..                              | "          | —                                 | 59                                  |
| Strawberries ... ..                       | "          | 7,851                             | 7,019                               |
| Unenumerated ... ..                       | "          | 1,779                             | 808                                 |
| Hay ... ..                                | Tons.      | 2,352                             | 6,568                               |
| Straw ... ..                              | "          | 1,430                             | 1,041                               |
| Hops ... ..                               | Cwts.      | 2,681                             | 264                                 |
| Locust beans ... ..                       | "          | 129                               | —                                   |
| <b>Vegetables, raw :—</b>                 |            |                                   |                                     |
| Onions ... ..                             | Bushels.   | 64,688                            | 48,690                              |
| Potatoes ... ..                           | Cwts.      | 869,168                           | 475,274                             |
| Tomatoes ... ..                           | "          | 89,960                            | 26,446                              |
| Unenumerated ... ..                       | Value £    | 9,104                             | 10,854                              |
| Vegetables, dried ... ..                  | Cwts.      | 2,809                             | 2,518                               |
| Preserved by canning ... ..               | "          | 3,410                             | 2,853                               |



## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

### TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of May, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1s.) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1902, in two volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6s. 11d. for the first, and 5s. for the second volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1898-1902, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and in the second volume details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transshipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

### THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 15th June:—State of the Labour Market in May; Agricultural Wages in the United Kingdom in 1902; Recent Conciliation and Arbitration Cases; Census of England and Wales, 1901; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Reports on Employment in the Principal Industries; Legal Cases affecting Labour, &c., &c.

### FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the **Annual and Miscellaneous Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

### ANNUAL.

#### No. 2,995. Corea, 1902.

Better market for manufactures, mining supplies, machinery and railway material.

Direct s.s. service with United Kingdom wanted.

Progress of foreign competition.

Evils of the national monetary arrangements.

New means of communication.

Statistics of imports, exports, and shipping.



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**No. 2,996. Porto Alegre, 1902.**

Imported textiles and hardware losing ground against protected native manufactures.

Totals of import trade, by countries. Values of principal

articles of export, with destinations.

Immigration statistics. Proposed settlement scheme.

**No. 2,997. Odessa, Agriculture, 1902.**

Trade in agricultural products. Area cultivated, yield, and weight.

State of crops for 1903.

This publication contains also reports by H.M. Representatives at Kieff, Nicolaieff, Sevastopol, Theodosia, and Eupatoria.

Sales of agricultural machinery and manures.

Statistics of the sugar industry of South-west Russia.

**No. 2,998. Hamburg, 1902.**

Trade larger in volume but less profitable. Progress of shipping.

Examination of imports and exports, with statistics, showing total share of the various countries participating, also quantities and values of principal articles. Lines of interchange with our Colonies.

Good market for honey, dried apples, hemp and quebracho. Successful competition of Soudanese with East Indian gums.

Industrial prospects. Canalisation and dock extension.

This publication contains also reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Bremen-Bremerhaven, Lübeck, Harburg, Kiel, Hanover and Emden.

**No. 2,999. Newchwang, 1902.**

Healthy condition of trade.

Imports of cotton goods and yarn, showing countries of origin of each variety.

Gradual diversion of trade to Dalny.

Statistics of import, export, and shipping.

**No. 3,000. South Formosa, 1902.**

Exports increasing largely, imports slightly declining. Success of duty-free Japanese goods.

Progress of sugar industry. Openings for capital.

Hints as to sale of machinery.

New s.s. services. Shipping returns and tables of principal articles of import and export at Tainan, Toko, Toseki, Makyu, and Hokkokei during the years 1900-1902, with observations as to character of trade.



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**MISCELLANEOUS.****No. 592. Municipalisation of Bakeries at Catania (Italy).**

|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| History of the operations of<br>the municipal committee, and<br>of their action at the time of<br>the bakers' strike. | Stated profit on the muni-<br>cipalised bread, and improved<br>conditions of labour. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.**

*Annual Statement of the Navigation and Shipping of the United Kingdom for the year 1902.* [Cd. 1,612.] Price 2s. 10d.

This return, which is compiled annually in the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, contains statements of the entries and clearances of sailing and steam vessels engaged in the foreign and coastwise trades at the several ports of the United Kingdom, together with statistics of vessels built and registered at each port, &c., &c. Comparative summary tables embracing the five years 1898 to 1902, are contained in the return as regards vessels entered and cleared at ports in the United Kingdom, proportion of British to Foreign tonnage, &c., &c.

*South Africa. Minutes of Proceedings of the South African Customs Union Conference, held at Bloemfontein, March, 1903.* [Cd. 1,640.] Price 2½d.

This return is issued in continuation of Cd. 1,599, noticed at p. 522 of the Journal for the 11th June, and contains the minutes of the proceedings of the Bloemfontein Conference, at which the Draft Customs Union Convention was drawn up. In addition to dealing with Customs matters, the Conference adopted resolutions in regard to the native question in South Africa, and expressed themselves in favour of restrictions on immigration.

*Africa No. 6 (1903). Report by H.M. Commissioner in the East Africa Protectorate.* [Cd. 1,626.] Price 5d.

This report, after giving a general account of the geography and ethnology of the British East Africa Protectorate, deals in detail with its administration, health, products, trade, shipping, finance, public works, &c. Statistical tables dealing with the trade and revenue of the Protectorate are appended; the value of trade imports during the year ended March 31st, 1903, was 447,032*l.* and of the exports 165,060*l.*

*Mines and Quarries: General Report and Statistics for 1902. Part I. District Statistics.* [Cd. 1,601.] Price 6½d.

This return, which forms the first part of the General Report on Mines and Quarries for 1902, contains statistics of the number of



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persons employed, the output of minerals, and of accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom arranged according to the inspection districts. The total output of the undermentioned minerals in the United Kingdom in 1902 as compared with 1901 was as follows:—

|                                     | 1901.       | 1902.       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                     | Tons.       | Tons.       |
| Coal ... ..                         | 219,046,945 | 227,095,042 |
| Iron ore... ..                      | 12,375,198  | 13,426,217  |
| Clays and shale ... ..              | 14,161,877  | 15,304,136  |
| Limestone (other than chalk) ... .. | 11,180,579  | 12,172,851  |
| Sandstone ... ..                    | 5,115,675   | 5,483,130   |
| Igneous rocks ... ..                | 5,049,312   | 5,466,964   |
| Chalk ... ..                        | 4,328,344   | 4,395,673   |

*Report on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom in 1902.* [Od. 1,562.] Price 8d.

The present volume is the tenth of a series of Annual Reports, compiled in the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, dealing with the changes in the market rates of wages and recognised hours of labour of workpeople in the United Kingdom for a full week's work, exclusive of overtime.

The principal feature of the changes during the year 1902 was the fall in wages in the coal mining industry. The reductions in this industry accounted for 95 per cent. of the total decrease recorded in 1902.

*The Journal of the Board of Agriculture.*

This publication contains information as to the position of agriculture at home and abroad, crop prospects in foreign countries, and further particulars obtained from foreign and colonial reports, Diplomatic and Consular Despatches, and other sources of intelligence accessible to the department; together with notes on dairying, fruit farming, poultry rearing, and other rural industries. Short descriptions of noxious insects and fungi, with appropriate remedies; information relating to wild birds useful to agriculture; statements of the quantities and values of agricultural produce imported and exported; and records of the current prices of grain, meat, dairy products, fruit, and vegetables, are given in each number.



*Government Publications.***LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.**

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

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# THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

## OF THE

# BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1d. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE. 

January, 1903.



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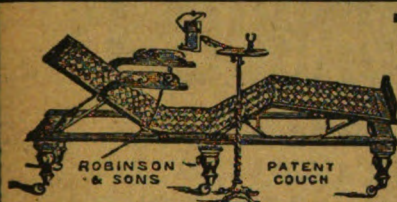
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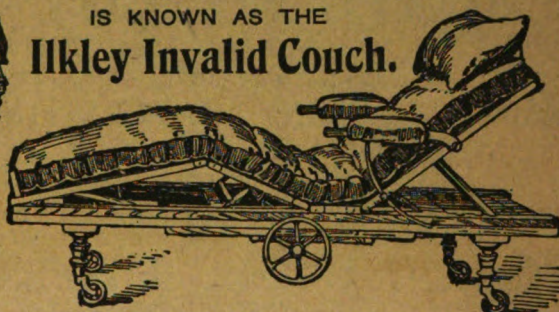


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